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LA NACION CRITICIZES CLOSURE OF URUGUAYAN PAPER

PY181345 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 6

[Editorial: "The Closure of an Uruguayan Newspaper"]

[Text] The Uruguayan Government has decreed a 90-day closure on the afternoon daily LA PRENSA, published in the city of Salto. This measure deserves a strong condemnation from all sectors that support the principles guaranteeing respect for freedom of expression and democratic pluralism. LA PRENSA is a traditional daily which has for many years voiced the thinking of one of the two historical political trends in Uruguayan democracy.

The decision by the Montevideo authorities marks an unfortunate regression for public freedom in our neighboring country. If the closure of a publication always represents an attack against the free play of ideas and the right of all communities to be informed, beyond the boundaries arbitrarily set by the government, under the present circumstances prevailing in Uruguay this step also represents an annoying symptom of the possible evolution in the political situation in that country, which is still apparently stumbling over obstacles in its march toward the reinstatement of republican institutions.

It becomes necessary once again to recall that a government which seeks to silence the press commits a double mistake, since it not only tramples on an inalienable right but also sentences itself to a life of disinformation and isolation. Wherever press freedom is trampled on, there can be no acceptable way of holding a dialogue or communication between the public and the men holding power.

If the Montevideo authorities wish to implement their aspirations to bolster the announced democratization process by means of clear and unmistakable deeds, then they must immediately review the measure taken against the afternoon daily of Salto and show that freedom of the press prevails throughout the country.

MEAT EXPORTS DOWN IN QUARTER; USSR TOP BUYER

PY122200 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] (NA) -- Meat exports dropped by 30.5 percent during the first quarter of the year, as compared to the same period last year. The value of exports also dropped by 37.27 percent, according to a report issued by the National Meat Board. Meat exports in March totalled 25,000 tons, the same as in January and February, as against an average monthly export of 34,000 tons during 1983. During the first quarter of 1983 exports were as follows: January 41,000 tons, February 35,000 tons, and March 32,000 tons.

In March the Soviet Union displaced the United States from the top position as main importer of Argentine meat. The Soviets purchased 8,300 tons of chilled and frozen beef, while the United States bought 7,700 tons of tinned and cooked meat. The European Community Market took third place with 4,800 tons of frozen and chilled meat. In the previous month the Israelis imported 1,300 tons of Argentine meats.

BRIEFS

RELIEF OF UNIT COMMANDER -- Navy Captain Roberto Perez Froio has been relieved as commander of the Navy Infantry Force No 1 headquartered in Rio Gallegos. Froio consequently requested his retirement from the Navy. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1624 GMT 10 Apr 84 PY]

EX-COLONEL ARCE GOMEZ LINKED TO COUP CONSPIRACY

PY211849 Paris AFP in Spanish 1558 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 21 Apr (AFP) -- The La Paz weekly AQUI today said that former Colonel Luis Arce Gomez is planning the mass murder of Bolivian political and labor leaders to set off a coup in favor of former Minister Noberto Salomon Soria, who last year demanded the resignation of President Siles Zuazo and the turnover of government to the Supreme Court.

The leftist weekly, which was founded by the Jesuit priest, Luis Espinal, who was kidnapped and killed in March 1980, revealed that the former strongman (1980-81) of President Luis Garcia Meza held a secret meeting with Salomon and former chief of Army Intelligence Service (SIE) Faustino Rico Toro in Tarija, 990 km south of La Paz.

Convinced that there are democratic sectors in the Army, they may have decided to murder any Army officer seriously opposed to the return to power of the cocaine mafia, the weekly AQUI said.

On the civilian side, the plan would call for the murder of political and labor leaders, including Juan Lechin Oquendo, to make up for the error committed in 1980 when the Executive Secretary of the Bolivian Workers Federation was set free after he asked over television for the indefinite general strike against the Garcia Meza coup to be lifted.

The Arce Gomez plan is being politically implemented through Departmental Civic Committees and the Neighborhood Junta Federations (FEJUVE), which are controlled by conservative sectors. In recent days these committees and federations have called for work stoppages and street blockades.

GROUNDED FRENCH CARGO PLANE LEAVES COUNTRY

PY201623 Paris AFP in Spanish 1420 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 20 Apr (AFP) -- It was learned here today that a French DC-8 [as received] cargo plane which was grounded in Santa Cruz on Wednesday for carrying arms left last night for Cayenne, French Guiana, after leaving the arms in Bolivian territory. The arms shipment has sparked a wave of speculation between the Armed Forces and the police, over to whom the arms were going.

DAILY, RADIO STATION SUFFER TERRORIST ATTACKS

PY201315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1225 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 20 Apr (EFE) -- The police had said that the newspaper EL DIARIO and the radio station Nueva America early this morning suffered terrorist attacks which heavily damaged their installations.

The offices of EL DIARIO and Radio Nueva America are located in the downtown area and both had earlier received anonymous telephone threats for allegedly opposing the democratic process. EL DIARIO, the oldest Bolivian newspaper, suffered heavy damage as a result of the explosion of a powerful bomb thrown by unidentified persons against the facade of the building.

The attack on Radio Nueva America caused serious damage inside the station. The explosion occurred 50 meters from a police station and 100 meters from Government Palace.

Government Blamed

PY211528 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpts] EL DIARIO, the oldest Bolivian newspaper, has suffered a dynamite attack. As a mass media organization, Panamericana rejects this criminal attack and urges the people not to tolerate violence.

EL DIARIO director Jorge Carrasco Villalobos made the following remarks to Panamericana about the unfortunate attack against his newspaper:

[Begin recording] [Carrasco] The attack took place at approximately midnight. It caused extensive damage, especially to the building's windows. The watchman discovered the explosive when it was about to explode and [words indistinct]. Unfortunately he was burned in the face and his eardrums were damaged. We hope his condition is not serious. The doctors have said he is not seriously injured.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] that this attack was carried out against a media organization such as EL DIARIO?

[Carrasco] Well, this time EL DIARIO and Radio Nueva America suffered these attacks. I believe this action was carried out by the government. [end recording]

Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has been interviewed by Panamericana to hear the official report on the two attacks.

[Begin Alvarez Plata recording] Well, these are vandalic acts which must be rejected by the public. As a member of the government, I strongly reject these acts. Last night I was informed by the police commander immediately after these two attacks took place. I gave him clear instructions to make every effort to investigate these acts to identify the criminals and to punish them accordingly.

It is very difficult to clear up this type of attack. I want to take this opportunity to ask the people to give us any information that might help us identify the criminals. [end recording]

POLITICIANS ON EMERGENCY MEASURES, AMENDMENT

PY201536 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpts] President Figueiredo yesterday spent the day at the Torto farm in Brasilia maintaining telephone contacts with senators, deputies, and governors of the Social Democratic Party [PDS]. These contacts had two objectives: to persuade them that the government-proposed constitutional amendment must be approved, and to warn them about the dangers involved in the possible approval of the Dante de Oliveira amendment, which proposes the reestablishment of direct presidential elections.

In his telephone conversations, the president repeated the same arguments that have been heard all week in Brasilia: He said the country is on the verge of returning to the situation which prompted the 31 March 1964 revolution and that radicals are quite likely to control the political leadership. Yet neither these warnings made by the president nor the emergency measures he has ordered are effective in forcing congressmen to change their minds. Not even PDS congressmen who are members of the pro-direct election group have supported the adoption of emergency measures.

Senator Carlos Chiarelli, PDS deputy leader in the Senate, said in Porto Alegre that the adoption of emergency measures is a step backward in the democratic process. He described this measure as a paper tiger which is a little bit scary but does not threaten anyone.

Moreira Franco, president of the Rio de Janeiro branch of the PDS, still believes that the Dante de Oliveira amendment will be approved on 25 April.

Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB]; Doutel de Andrade, president of the Democratic Worker's Party [PDT); and Luis Inacio da Silva, president of the Workers Party [PT], have also met to discuss the consequences of the adoption of emergency measures. They expressed their conviction that 25 April continues to be the ideal date for the approval of the amendment reestablishing direct elections. The PMDB, PDT, and PT leaders also decided to cancel the rally they were to hold in Brasilia; instead they will stage a demonstration in the halls of Congress on the eve of the vote on the Dante de Oliveira amendment.

In a communique released to the people, the three opposition leaders called on all drivers to honk their horns at 1800 on 24 April and to turn off the lights in their houses at 2100.

GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT PROPOSAL RELEASED

PY201657 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Apr 84 p 5

["Main Points" of constitutional amendment proposed by President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo to Congress on 16 April]

[Text] The president and vice president of the Republic will be elected simultaneously from among Brazilians older than 35 years of age, exercising their political rights through a universal direct secret vote throughout the country 120 days before the end of the presidential term. The election of the president will mean the election of the candidate for vice president registered with the presidential ticket. The presidential term will be 4 years, with the possibility of being reelected only once without having to resign from office to seek reelection.

In case none of the candidates achieve an absolute majority, the candidate with more than 40 percent of the votes will be submitted for confirmation by the National Congress, and he will be considered elected if he obtains more than half of the congressmen's votes. If there is no absolute majority for confirmation, or if none of the candidates have received more than 40 percent of the votes, a new election will be held within 30 days after the meeting of the National Congress or of the proclamation of the results of the vote count. The two candidates with the most votes, whose registration will be validated again, will participate in this new election. To establish an absolute majority and percentages, blank and null votes will not be counted. For the confirmation, the National Congress will hold a public session within 15 days after receiving the report from the Supreme Electoral Court. If Congress is in recess, the Senate president will call it into session. The vice president will assume office together with the president of the Republic.

The Electoral College will be made up of members of the National Congress and delegates of the legislative assemblies. Each assembly will have six delegates and two alternate members appointed by the bloc of the majority party from among the assemblymen. The organization and functioning of the Electoral College will be regulated through a resolution of the National Congress Board.

The president and vice president of the Republic who will succeed the current ones for a 4-year term beginning 15 March 1985 will be elected by the Electoral College through a roll call vote in public session to be held at the National Congress on 15 January 1985.

If 6 months after the Chamber of Deputies has received a draft law from the nation's president and Congress has not definitely acted upon it, the president may request that Congress do so in a joint session within 60 days beginning on the date the Senate president received the presidential request. The nation's president may modify the original draft law. If again the draft law has not been acted upon within the 60-day period, it will be automatically included as an urgent matter on the congressional agenda for 10 sessions in successive days; if the draft law has again not been acted upon, it will be considered to have been approved. The nation's president can exceptionally, upon submitting a draft law to Congress, request that it be discussed in a joint session within a 90-day period and, should Congress fail to do so, the same criterion for its approval will apply. The aforementioned time priods will not run during recess periods.

If the president vetoes a bill passed by Congress, the Senate president will call a joint session to inform the congressmen; the vetoed bill will be considered approved if favorably voted on within 45 days by two-thirds of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. In this case, the bill Congress has approved again will be sent to the nation's president for promulgation.

The president of the federal Senate will be entitled to summon a special congressional session when the government decrees a state of siege, a state of emergency, or a federal intervention. During congressional recesses, a federal bicameral commission will supervise the actions of the federal government, including the decentralized administration. The commission will be made up of six senators and six deputies, who may be replaced by alternate members. The commission's members will be elected following provisions of the Internal Regulation which will establish their prerogatives.

When a case is brought against a senator on a deputy for a common crime, the Senate or the Chamber of Deputies may, at the request of their corresponding executive boards, stop the court process at any time. The decision to stop the court process must be approved by absolute majority.

The Chamber of Deputies is exclusively entitled to approve in advance, through secret votes, the appointment of judges in the cases established in the Constitition, and of the attorney general of the Republic, the magistrates of the Audit Court, the governors of the Federal District and national territories, the members of the Federal District Audit Court, the chiefs of permanent diplomatic missions.

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The National Congress is exclusively entitled to authorize the president and the vice president of the Republic to leave the country on pain of being ousted if they do so without the corresponding authorization.

A system has been established to supervise the budgets of autarchic groups, joint public-private corporations, public enterprises, and public foundations, without dismissing the jurisdiction of the Audit Courts.

Federal and state administrative litigation boards can be created to review fiscal and social security questions, including questions related to on-the-job accidents, applying legislation on life quality improvement in the states.

The IPI (Industrialized Product Tax) will be included as part of the basis for the calculation of the ICM (Merchandise Movement Tax) levied on cigarettes in gradual manner, one-third in 1984, two-thirds in 1985, and the full amount in 1986.

The Union will distribute in the 1984 fiscal year 12.5 percent to the Funds of Participation of the States, the Federal District, and the territories, and 13.5 percent of the Fund of Participation of the Municipalities. The participation in tax revenues from lubricants and liquid or gaseous fuels will be 44 percent in 1984, 48 percent in 1985, 52 percent in 1986, and 56 percent in 1987.

Municipalities can impose taxes for road and spur-road opening and maintenance.

In urgent cases or cases of relevant public interest, provided expenses will not be increased, the nation's president can dictate decree-laws regarding national security, public finance, special tax rules, or create public positions and assign remunerations.

The first election of mayors and vice mayros in the capitals of municipalities through a universal, direct, and secret vote will be held in 1986 simultaneously with the election for state governors. The election for mayors and vice mayors of mineral water spas, through the same process, will be held 6 months after inauguration of the new president of the nation, and the mandates of those elected will run until 31 December 1988. The statute of inelegibility for elective office will not apply to a current appointed mayor, provided he steps down from office 90 days prior to elections in his municipality.

The election of state governors and vice governors for 4-year terms will be made through a universal, direct, and secret vote following the same procedure as for the election of the nation's president. The election of a governor automatically makes mandatory the election of the vice governor on the same ticket.

A complementary law will establish the cases of inelegibility for elective office for those who have held the posts of president, vice president, state governor, state vice governor, mayor, and vice mayor.

Acts performed under provisions of institutional and complementary acts referred to in Article 3 of constitutional Amendment 11 of 13 October 1978 are exempted from judicial action.

The head of the Federal Judicial Affairs System is the attorney general appointed by the nation's president with the prior approval of the federal Senate. The attorney general must be a Brazilian citizen more than 35 years old, of outstanding judicial knowledge and unassailable reputation.

The Federal Supreme Court has to pass judgment on questions of unconstitutionality or interpretation submitted by the attorney general regarding laws or resolutions dictated by the federal or state governments. The attorney general cannot deny questions of unconstitutionality whenever they are submitted by the heads of any of the branches of the federal or state governments, or by the Federal Council of the Brazilian Lawyers Guild acting upon a resolution adopted by two-thirds of its members.

States can be merged or subdivided for annexation to other states or to form new territories through a complementary law dictated after a plebiscite of the population. The nation's president can propose laws, not dependent on a plebiscite, to t ansform a territory into a state or to subdivide a territory into smaller territories.

Municipal autonomy will be ensured through the direct elections of mayors, vice mayors, and councilmen simultaneously held throughout the country except in tne capitals, where these elections will coincide with the elections for governors. With prior approval by the nation's president, the governors will appoint mayors of municipalities which have been declared to be of interest to national security through laws proposed by the executive branch.

The municipalities will participate in the Metropolitan Regions Council, and the states and territories will participate in regional organizations under the jurisdiction of which they fall entirely or partially.

The values of the individual and his fundamental rights are unquestionable, and the state must respect and protect the privacy of the individual and his family, his name, and his reputation. The law cannot prevent any violation of individual rights from being reviewed by the judicial branch.

The handicapped are guaranteed improvement of their social and economic conditions through cost-free and special education, assistance, and rehabilitation to bring them into the country's social and economic mainstream. Individual discrimination is forbidden, including questions regarding dismissal from jobs, public employment, and salaries.

The secrecy of mail and communications in general is inviolable.

The capacity of the Indians is recognized, and their cultural values must be preserved. The government should gradually promote their total integration into the national community.

The values of the family will be protected by the government. Parents are under the obligation to support and educate their children, including those born out of wedlock. In case of parental incapacity, the law will provide for social assistance to underage offspring.

Elementary education during the first 4 years will be administered exclusively in the national language.

Appointments for the initial and final levels of the teaching career in public education at high school and university levels will be subject to prior public competitive examination.

Amendment 'Too Late'

PY212330 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST in English 20/21/22/23 Apr pp 1, 4

[By Herbert Zachech]

[Text] LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST, Rio de Janeiro -- President Figueiredo's constitutional amendment sent to the Congress as an alternative to the opposition project for immediate direct election of Figueiredo's successor has one major deficiency -- it has come too late. If it had been proposed months ago, its liberal items restoring in full the prerogatives of the legislative power would have been hailed as the climax of Figueiredo's political opening and restoration of the democratic regime. The postponement of direct election of the president would have been strongly attacked only by radicals without major popular support. The opportunity has been missed. The campaign for direct elections now, featuring street demonstrations on an unprecedented scale throughout Brazil, has enthralled the masses of the people to such a degree that its radical leaders just cannot compromise, for the time being, without frustrating the people and losing face. Radical opposition leaders now find themselves in the tragic-comical position concisely formulated by Friedrich Nietzsche: "I am their leader; I have to follow them."

Until Wednesday or Thursday, when the Dante de Oliveira amendment for immediate direct election of Figueiredo's successor is up for debate and voting in the Chamber and perhaps also in the Senate, no compromise of any sort is thinkable because the outcome is entirely unforeseeable and both groups, opposition and government, expect that their viewpoint will prevail.

But nothing indicates that after the voting the political horizon will be any clearer. Should the opposition bill be approved, the government would find itself in a dilemma, having to accept the only item which it termed non-negotiable, meaning unacceptable -- the immediate direct election. It might be compelled, by internal pressure -- which according to unconfirmed rumors include military pressures -- to veto or ignore the congressional decision, provoking an institutional crisis of incalculable consequences.

Or the opposition amendment could be rejected with a small difference of votes. In this event, the opposition, according to what has been declared already, simply would continue the battle, proposing a "rider" on the governmental bill, changing the date of 1988 for the election of Figueiredo's successor to 1985, accompanied by a new wave of street rallies.

And even admitting that the governmental project ultimately prevails and Figueiredo's successor is elected by the Electoral College, what would be the result? A president -- either Paulo Maluf or Mario Andreazza -- with neither popular support nor prestige, since neither of these two names seems to carry any sort of popular appeal today. As their rival candidate, Vice President Aureliano Chaves, put it -- such a president simply would not be capable of governing, finding himself isolated in the Planalto Palace.

But the government says all the other items in its constitutional amendment bill are negotiable, including the four year term for the next president which could perhaps be reduced to a two-year buffer mandate, as proposed by some politicians from both camps.

But this might make things worse. The holder of the two-year buffer mandate would hardly be able to achieve anything. The two years would be spent on discussions about who should next become president. He would not have conditions for working out a government platform which in the current circumstances necessarily would have to involve at least a four-year-plan for a new economic policy. Nothing would get done in the two "buffer" years, while the people's impatience at the continuation and deterioration of the economic crisis would provoke a social convulsion. The two-year buffer president either would be forced out of office within a few months, or have to make himself a dictator with military backing -- if he could get it.

Nevertheless, moderate opposition leaders -- foremost of all the governor of Minas Gerais, Tancredo Neves -- agree with the government that immediately after the expected rejection in Congress of the Dante de Oliveira Amendment next week, negotiations will have to be started. The government has pledged almost unlimited willingness to negotiate, with the sole exception of the election of Figueiredo's successor in the Electoral College. Even the procedures of election in the Electoral College could be modified. This could open prospects for new candidacy acceptable to the opposition -- the moderate opposition, evidently, because with radicals no understanding of any sort is viable.

Many politicians, including many of the government's PDS, feel that there is at least one name of choice for a compromise candidacy this year -- Tancredo Neves. The present governor of Minas Gerais and prominent leader of the opposition PMDB party where his voice, however, is currently being drowned by radical vociferations, has undeniable prestige in governmental groups as well as among the people. His political past includes his having been the chief of government during the short-lived period of parliamentary regime which followed the desertion from the presidency of Janio Quadros. It was not his fault, but the fault of President Goulart's ambitions that the parliamentary experiment -- now again proposed by many as a way out of the political deadlock -- did not last. Many observers have a distinct feeling that Tancredo Neves might still be the man of choice to save Brazil from its present political confusion although he personally seems to discourage all these speculations.

Had Figueiredo demonstrated more statemanship and initiative of leadership, the situation might be quite different. Many of the difficulties are attributable to his abrupt decision to give up the coordination of a candidacy for his succession which had been entrusted to him, at his own reauest, by the PDS. The two principal PDS candidates for election by the Electoral College, Maluf and Andreazza, are not bad at all. Both have demonstrated administrative capacity and Maluf in particular is credited with being able to overcome the worst political obstacles through clever strategy.

Formerly, popular charisma was dispensable. When the military regime years ago presented to the people Gen Emilio Garrastazu Medici as their new president, his name was virtually unknown to the man on the street. Nevertheless he completed his mandate without major disasters or incidents. It might also be recalled that charismatic leaders generally lead their nations into trouble.

At present, the only charismatic politicians with chances of being elected president in a general popular election is probably Leonel Brizola, but the mere thought of having him as president makes conservative persons shudder. Should he eventually emerge from the current political mess as the new national leader, the nation's immediate future would inspire serious concern. Too bad that the Figueiredo government's political and strategic blunders seem to have created a dangerous deadlock where bipartisan negotiations and reciprocal concessions are the only chance of avoiding radicalism.

The latest street rallies, especially in Sao Paulo, featured many red banners. This does not necessarily mean prevalance of communist trends. Nowadays in Brazil communists in the strict historical sense are mainly a few surviving old timers. The revolutionary nimbus of the Soviet Union among the proletarian masses has all but vanished. But the red banners, carried mainly by followers of former union leader Lula, express radicalism involving rejection of compromise and negotiation, and this incipient radicalism has heated up the political climate already to a degree where more reasonable solutions become highly doubtful.

The imposition of emergency measures in Brasilia and neighboring cities by the federal government, announced Wednesday night, proves, if nothing else, that the authorities are acutely aware of this danger.

EIGHT PERSONS DETAINED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES

PY211410 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Police authorities are already enforcing the emergency measures in Brasilia. Outside the Brasilia cathedral, the federal police have detained five members of the World Movement for Amnesty and Nonviolence, Friar Lency Frederico da Costa, and two ULTIMA HORA reporters who were covering the story.

YELLOW CAKE, PHOSPHORIC ACID PLANTS PLANNED

PY211745 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Apr 84 p 24

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals has authorized the start of the construction of pilot plants for the production of uranium concentrate and phosphoric acid from the ore found in Itataia, Ceara State. In the first phase, an investment of $16 million is to be made both in Ceara and in Imbituba, Santa Catarina State, where phosphoric acid can be produced.

The minister said that the testing of the processes will be completed in 18 months, and that the industrial phase could then begin. The plant will be built in Itataia, Ceara State, to produce 2,000 tons of uranium concentrate (U308) and 300,000 tons of phosphoric acid per year. This plant will cost $300 million from a French investment that will be repaid in "ore currency."

On the French side, the Pechiney Igine Kulhman Co will be involved with the project's engineering, and the Cogema Co with purchasing the "yellow cake" (U308). The Mines and Energy Ministry chose the Norberto Odebrecht Construction Co, a Brazilian firm, to coordinate the entire project. Also on the Brazilian side, the Paulo Habib Engineering Co will participate with studies of technical and economic viability, and the Natron Co with the development of a unit for the production of sulphur and phosphoric acid from gypsite, an ore known to be abundant in the northeast.

SOVIET ENVOY EXPRESSES INTEREST IN IRON, COPPER

PY211834 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Apr 84 p 16

[Text] Belem (Para State) -- Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Chernyshev has revealed that his country is interested in importing iron from the Carajas mine. The ambassador came to Belem to extend an invitation to Governor Jader Barbalho (Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party) to visit the Soviet Union in May. Chernyshev made it clear that his country is not interested in investing in the Carajas mine project, but in importing the raw material.

The Soviet's immediate interest is copper. The Soviet ambassador said that there have been contacts with the Vale do Rio Doce Co regarding the transfer of technology for copper mining, and that a Brazilian delegation went to the Soviet Union last year to study the technology for enrichment of copper ore.

Ambassador Chernyshev concluded by saying: "We consider Brazil a large and rich country with great potential."

BRIEFS

WORKERS PARTY ELECTIONS -- Luis Inacio da Silva last night was unanimously elected president of the Workers Party (PT) for another 2-year term. Silva's nominee for the party's presidency was Olivio Dutra, who had held the party's vice presidency. However, the 285 convention delegates found Silva's reelection to be necessary. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Apr 84 p 3 PY]

NEW 2D ARMY COMMANDER -- General Sebastiao de Castro has assumed the command of the 2d Army, headquartered in the city of Sao Paulo. The new commander said that he will stay away from politics and will only take care of his duty to preserve internal order as the law provides. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1539 GMT 31 Mar 84 PY]

INFLATION RATE DECLINE -- The 12-month cumulative inflation ending in March 1984 has dropped 0.4 percent, from the 230.1-percent 12-month inflation ending in February 1983 to 229.7 percent. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Mar 84 p 1 PY]

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO, EGYPTIAN ENVOYS -- The new ambassadors of Egypt and Trinidad and Tobago will present their credentials to President Joao Figueiredo this morning. The Egyptian ambassador is Mokhaless Goban, who holds a U.S. political science degree and has previously served in African countries and in his country's UN mission. The ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago is Wilfred Sheik Naimolli, who has previously served in the West Indies, Canada, and his nation's UN delegation in Geneva. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Apr 84 p 8 PY]

'GROUP OF 8' PROPOSES QUICK RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

PY211853 Paris AFP in Spanish 1754 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 20 Apr (AFP) -- Gabriel Valdes, leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance (AD), today said that the proposal to invigorate the transition process in Chile, made by eight parties and movements linked to the military government, was a very interesting proposal. Valdes said that the AD is interested in fully cooperating to analyze specific topics with democratic sectors which want to do so. Last Wednesday, the group of eight issued a proposal to speed up the restoration of democracy in Chile, including the holding of a plebiscite next year and the election of a congress in 1986.

The proposal of the group of eight urged the other political currents to recognize the present institutional order, saying that the proposal is offered to the country, the authorities, and other democratic forces in Chile with the intention of speeding up the transition toward full democracy. The leaders said in the proposal that the laws on the political parties and the future electoral system should be enacted this year, so that the citizens can vote in a plebiscite in 1985 to reform the current Constitution.

Valdes stated that there can be a rapprochement among most of the political groups over several specific questions, mentioning as examples the discussion of the problems of the freedom of the press, the freedom of assembly, free and equal access to the communications media, and the emergency laws.

The reform proposed by the group of eight would allow the election of a congress in 1986 and the repeal of the controversial temporary Article 24, which empowers the government to order detentions and to banish or exile those who attack the established order.

Dialogue is urgently demanded by the Catholic Church to stop violence and overcome social tensions before it is too late, but Pinochet has let it be known that an understanding will be possible only if the Constitution is respected.

MEMBERS OF CLANDESTINE SOCIALIST CELL DETAINED

PY201906 Paris AFP in Spanish 2218 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 19 Apr (AFP) -- Four members of a clandestine cell of the Chilean Socialist Party were detained today in Santaigo by security personnel of the military government, police sources have reported.

It was reported that the group, which consisted of two men and two women, seems to be linked to the socialist faction to which youth leader Cecilia Suarez belongs. Suarez has been in asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Santiago for 6 weeks.

Agents of the National Intelligence Center, which initially did not reveal the identity of the detainees, seized firearms, grenades, and items for making bombs, according to a semiofficial report.

U.S. TO ASK CONTADORA GROUP MEETING POSTPONEMENT

PA210327 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota -- Harry Shlaudeman, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America, will arrive in Colombia next Sunday, making the first stop on his second regional tour which this time will take him to the Contadora countries. Reliable sources have said that the diplomat will meet with President Belisario Betancur and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo to request a postponement of the Contadora Group foreign ministers' meeting with the Central American foreign ministers scheduled for 30 April in Panama, where a pact that would provide a basis for the negotiated solution of the Central American conflict is to be signed.

PCC LEADER ON GOVERNMENT-FARC AGREEMENT

PA212346 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota -- The Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] has agreed with former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala that the Government-FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia] peace agreement is a truce. Interviewed by Super Noticias, Gilberto Vieira, PCC secretary general and a member of the Chamber of Representatives, said:

[Begin recording] It is logical that former President Turbay Ayala [words indistinct] agreement signed between the commission of [word indistinct] and FARC, and approved by the president of the Republic. Evidently this agreement, which is not a document with secret or restricted clauses, is being analyzed by all Colombians. It has to do with a truce that could develop into a cease-fire and the creation of a new climate within the country that will enable the implementation of the peace which is so greatly desired by Colombians. [end recording]

According to former President Turbay Ayala, the peace agreement could crumble in a year if the guerrillas decide their demands have not been met. These demands were presented by the rebels as a condition to sign the agreement.

ETA TO GIVE MILITARY ADVICE TO M-19 REBELS

PA210014 Paris AFP in Spanish 2155 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota, 20 Apr (AFP) -- CARACOL, the Colombian radio station, has reported that as of today, ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty Organization], the Spanish-Basque separatist movement, will militarily advise the M-19 [19 April Movement], the Colombian guerrilla group.

During a joint press conference the two organizations said that this alliance is part of the program of international support among the guerrillas in several countries of Europe and Latin America, the source added. A Spaniard, who said that he is a member of ETA, told CARACOL that the movement's tasks will be to provide exclusive advice in military operations and give international support to the M-19 whenever the members of the Colombian group request it.

The ETA member, whose identity is now known, recalled that the first contact carried out by that alliance was made several months ago when members of the M-19 superior command traveled to Madrid to hold a preliminary dialogue with Colombian president Belisario Betancur, who was then visiting Spain, regarding the possibilities of achieving peace in Colombia.

According to CARACOL, the M-19 delegates today once again demanded that President Betancur fulfill a series of promises that, according to them, he made during the meeting in Madrid. They also demanded the continuation of the talks to achieve national pacification.

The ETA and the M-19 postponed at the last minute and for unknown reasons a high-level meeting that was to be held in the town of Armero, a town of 30,000 residents in Tolima Department, some 170 km east of Bogota. William Giraldo of CARACOL and other press and television correspondents had been "invited" to the meeting, but instead received the announcement of the alliance.

As is known, the 19 April Movement (M-19 nationalist extreme leftist group) celebrated its 10th anniversary on Holy Thursday. On the occasion of this anniversary, it was feared that terrorist actions would occur. For this reason the Colombian authorities mounted a special prevention operation throughout the country.

At this time, due to the Holy Week recess, no official reaction regarding this ETA-M-19 alliance has been heard.

WAVE OF GUERRILLA VIOLENCE REPORTEDLY INCREASING

PA200350 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 3

[Report by Eduardo Carrillo]

[Excerpts] While the military police authorities are discussing the possibility of extending the state of siege to Valle del Cauca Department due to the wave of dynamite attacks, the number of peasants killed by the so-called Popular Liberation Army [EPL] in Turbo, Antioquia Department has risen to nine.

The authorities are studying the possibility of extending the state of siege to Valle del Cauca due to the constant movement of guerrilla groups on the borders with Cauca and Tolima Departments and due to the new outbreak of violence and attacks against police stations and garrisons.

Meanwhile, the National Police have reported that members of the EPL were responsible for the massacre in Punta de Piedra and Tie, in the Municipality of Turbo, Antioquia.

According to the police, the guerrillas entered the peasants' homes and shot them in the presence of their families, apparently because they refused to cooperate in the illegal activities.

Bomb Damages Radio CARACOL

PA222128 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Arauca -- A powerful bomb exploded a few hours ago in Saravena, destroying the Radio CARACOL transmitter there and causing approximately 8 million pesos damage. It has been reported that neither the radio station operator nor his wife and two children were injured by the explosion. The self-styled Army of National Liberation has claimed credit for the attack. The operator and his family were in the house located next to the site of the explosion.

FARC Kills Two

PA201731 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Apr 84 p 3 A

[Report by Carlos Campo]

[Excerpt] Popayan, 17 Apr -- The police have announced that the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] has killed two men, one of them a former policeman, in Sinai, Argelia Municipality.

FARC propaganda was found near the bodies of Carlos Marino Diaz Beltran and Francisco Ramos, who were shot in the head.

This is the first action carried out by the FARC since its foiled attempt to seize Argelia on 7 April.

Two Peasants Killed

PA212255 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Report by Marino Restreop Omaya]

[Excerpt] In the past few hours there was a new People's Liberation Army attack in the Uraba area, specifically in the Punta de Piedra and Piedrecitas Corregiminetos, in which two peasants, a man and a woman, were killed. We must note that this is the same column that approximately a week ago raided that same area of this department and killed nine peasants. It has also been reported from the middle Magdalena region that a joint FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and M-19 [19 April Movement] column tried to occupy the Vencedores Battalion's military base in (Gordan Bajo) Corregimiento, on the border between Antioquia and Santander Departments. Approximately 60 guerrillas entered that military base, but they were repelled by regular Army troops and forced to return to the mountains.

EPL DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT DEATHS

PA201441 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Apr 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Popular Liberation Army (EPL), armed branch of the Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist-Leninist), has announced that it will suspend the peace dialogue with the government if peasants continue to be killed in the region of Uraba. The EPL claims that these slayings are being carried out by paramilitary organizations. The EPL also rejected charges that it was responsible for the slaughter reported last weekend.

At an impromptu news conference in a downtown hotel in Bogota, the Official Public EPL Commission warned that the enemies of the peace process currently underway in this country have been sponsoring the bloodshed for the sole purpose of blaming the groups up in arms.

EPL Official Delegate Oscar William Calvo announced that sometime in the next few hours he hopes to meet with National Peace Commission President John Agudelo Rios. At the meeting, he will clearly define the EPL's position and warn the government about the latest developments in Uraba, as the EPL feels that efforts are being made to tarnish this revolutionary group's image in connection with its present position.

COLORADO PARTY FACTIONS MEET, PUBLISH REPORT

PY171713 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 8

[Paid advertisement entitled: "First Political Meeting Held Between the National Republican Association (Colorado Party) in Exile and Resistance, and the Movement of Authentic Paraguayan Colorados (Movimiento de Autenticidad Colorado Paraguaya)" -- capitalization as published]

[Text] On behalf of and representing the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION (COLORADO PARTY) IN EXILE AND RESISTANCE AND THE MOVEMENT OF AUTHENTIC PARAGUAYAN COLORADOS; Mssrs De Miguel Angel Aquino, Engineer Leopoldo Ostertag, Rodolfo Udrizar, Ramon Martinez Caceres, Basilio Gonzalez Hermosilla, Guillermo Correa Martinez, Helio Villa Cabanas, and Dr Bernardino Cano Radil, for the National Republican Association (Colorado Party) in Exile; and Messrs Julio Damian Insaurralde Costa, Dr Mario Milciades Melgarejo, Ernesto Barua, Ruben Dario Veron, and Dr Manuel Saria Rey, for the Movement of Authentic Paraguayan Colorados, on 14-15 April 1984 held their first political meeting during which several party issues were discussed. The main topic discussed during the meetings centered on the UNITY of the Paraguayan Colorado Party, since it is understood that such a matter is of the utmost importance for everyone and all Colorado faithful, as well as for all the citizenry.

Both Colorado political organizations deemed it necessary to continue the POLITICAL DIALOGUE INITIATED on this occasion, and to further expand it by having other intraparty trends participate, bearing in mind that it is imperative to achieve, for the good of the Colorado Party and the democratic institutional normalization of the country, a DEFINITIVE PARTY UNITY. This is to be understood as UNITY OF SEVERAL PARTY TRENDS [UNIDAD EN LA VARIEDAD], UNITY WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS, UNITY WITHOUT FACTIONAL DISCRIMINATION, COMPLETE UNITY, values which are essential for the national and political life in the face of the grave crisis now affecting the higher interests of our fatherland.

LAW STUDENTS DEBATE CLOSURE OF NEWSPAPER

PY172247 Asunsion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 14

[Excerpts] Charges that "student centers are manipulated by the Colorado Party government junta" and that "the intervention of sectors other than those belonging to the university is a reality" were leveled during an open debate held at the law school of the National University last night. During a heated, open debate that lasted more than 2 hours, law school students of the National University of Asunsion analyzed and discussed outside intervention in university life, the pressure exerted by political leaders in connection with the composition of student centers, and the closure of the newspaper ABC COLOR.

The debate became particularly heated when the student leaders running for the presidency of the law school center referred to the government's closure of the newspaper ABC COLOR.

MORENA (Nationalist Renewal Movement) candidate Rogelio Benitez said: "The university, the environment in which we work and develop our activities, has never been in charge of making a decision on an issue like the closure of the newspaper ABC COLOR on charges of advocating hatred among Paraguayans and inciting criminal actions. Of the three branches of government, the judicial branch has to decide whether the closure of a mass media organ is a legal action. I can say that the decision the government makes through its three branches will be accepted and supported by students if it is in keeping with the law."

He added: "If the government's decision turns out to be in violation of the law, if it is not true that ABC COLOR has attacked Paraguayan traditions, we will then go out and shout and demand that it be reopened and that the right that the 1,500 paperboys and 6,000 families that live on that newspaper have to earn their bread and living, a right that has been temporarily denied them, be restored. If the closure of an organ of the mass media is a legal action and if the government...if the government does not care to give new jobs to those who lost theirs...I myself will then lead the students out into the streets, and I hope all of us will unite behind a single charge: injustice! Meanwhile, in the absence of a resolution by the judicial branch, I do not believe we should echo what could turn out to be an allegedly proven opinion or a premature supposition," Rogelio Benitez concluded.

FED (Law Student Front) representative Adalberto Alderete said on the same issue: "Our Constitution guarantees freedom of the press and freedom of expression. The real objective of the government's decision to close ABC COLOR is to silence the people's discontent, the peasants discontent, the massive dismissal of workers, and the discontent of the youths who cannot find a job."

PLRA ADVISES REGIME OF RETURN OF DOMINGO LAINO

PY212035 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 7

[Excerpt] In a note to Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro, Juan Manuel Bentiez Florentin and Miguel Abdon Saguier have notified the government about the return of Domingo Laino. The note says that the exiled politician will return on 29 April 1984, aboard a regular Aerolineas Argentinas flight from Buenos Aires.

Laino was expelled from the country in December 1982, a few days after the publication of his book "The Merchant General." In May 1983, Laino tried to enter the country, but the police kept him from getting off the plane in which he arrived.

The leaders of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) argued that under Article 56 of the Constitution, Domingo Laino has the right to freely enter the national territory, and that the denial of that right would be arbitrary and unjust.

The president of the National Accord, Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, will travel to the United States, where on Monday, 23 April, at 1330 (1730 GMT), in the private office of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Washington, he will present to the former president a painting by the Paraguayan painter Migliorisi along with a scroll. This is in recognition of Jimmy Carter's unfailing defense of human rights during his term in of office.

GOVERNMENT FEARS U.S. BAN ON COPPER IMPORTS

PY211559 Paris AFP in Spanish 1458 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 19 Apr (AFP) -- In a unanimously approved motion, the Senate last night expressed its concern over the possibility that the U.S. Government may reduce copper imports, thus harming the economy of copper producing countries. The document clearly explains the danger of the application of protectionist measures through which the United States may reduce its copper purchases by 550,000 tons, and urges the Foreign, Economy, and Energy Ministries to take the necessary steps at the International Copper Trade Commission of the U.S. Government.

The protest has been caused by a request, made by 12 big U.S. copper companies to that commission, to prohibit copper imports for 5 years, a measure which would even allow the United States to sell its copper surplus on other markets.

Javier Diaz Orihuela, a government party senator, drew up the motion and explained that 35,000 tons of the 550,000 tons of copper now imported by the United States are sold by Peru, representing 10 percent of its exports. Furthermore, the surplus caused by the U.S. measures will cause a price slump. Orihuela said that Peru is not in any condition to endure this measure, in addition to the U.S. barriers to our textiles, canned fish, hides, and other products.

In turn, Energy and Mines Minister Juan Inchaustegui has said that his ministry is preparing the arguments which will be submitted to this commission in Washington on 15 May.

MINISTRY, USSR SIGN COOPERATION DOCUMENT

PY201926 Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0436 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry secretary general and the Soviet deputy foreign trade minister have signed a final document on the Peruvian-Soviet Joint Commission's talks concerning cooperation in the economic, commercial, scientific, technical, and fishing areas.

TERRORISTS CONTINUE BOMB ATTACKS THROUGH EASTER

PY222217 Paris AFP in Spanish 0201 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Terrorists tonight continued a series of dynamite attacks, which started last Monday and are keeping people nervous, while they celebrate Easter. At least five bombs have gone off tonight throughout Lima, damaging a store, a real estate company, a bank, a branch of the [national] telephone company, and a park.

Terrorists attacked two police stations last Thursday and have set off over a dozen bombs throughout Lima with a toll of one dead and three wounded terrorists between Monday and Wednesday. A policeman and a civilian were also wounded in these attacks.

NATIONAL GUARD COLONEL KILLS U.S. EXECUTIVE

PA211741 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1558 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Caracas, 21 Apr (DPA) -- The U.S. Embassy in Venezuela has been informed that a Venezuelan National Guard colonel has murdered a U.S executive on a highway near Caracas simply because that military officer could not pass the vehicle in which the U.S. citizen was traveling.

The incident took place in broad daylight near the Caracas-Tejeiras Highway exit leading to the small town of Paracotos, 35 km from the Venezuelan capital. News reports published today agree that Timothy Kinci, a 30-year-old U.S. (bank) executive, was traveling as a passenger in a vehicle driven by Alvaro Antonio Castro, a Venezuelan of the same age. Colonel Tulio Enrique Altuve Briceno, from Regional Detachment No 3 of the National Guard (border police and highway safety) of Maracaibo, was driving behind the Mercedes Benz in which the executive was riding. The colonel honked his horn several times seeking to be allowed to use the passing lane, which was occupied by the U.S.-Venezuelan pair.

Since the colonel could not achieve his purpose, he decided to advance in the right-hand lane, which he did until his vehicle was alongside the other car. The colonel then used his regulation pistol. One of the bullets hit the Mercedes Benz, the other the head of the young U.S. executive. The officer turned himself in to a National Guard post a short time later.

The North American died a few minutes later in a Caracas emergency hospital. When the Venezuelan driver, Castro, after taking his friend Kinci to the hospital, went to pick up his vehicle he discovered that it had been partially stripped, despite its having been left near a tax-collection office with military protection.

The North American was a Los Angeles resident. He came to Venezuela 1 month ago to establish himself in this country since he was married to a Venezuelan teacher, Olga Vera. Kinci's widow appealed to the U.S. Embassy, and embassy officials have called for a "formal investigation," the morning newspapers report today. The papers note that the event took place on Wednesday. Venezuelan newspapers are not published on Holy Thursday or Good Friday.

PETROLEUM COOPERATION PROGRAM SIGNED WITH MEXICO

PA200345 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Apr 84 p D 1

["Program of Petroleum and Petrochemical Cooperation" signed by the Mexican Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Secretariat and the Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry in Caracas on 7 April]

[Text] On the occasion of the Mexican president's state visit to Venezuela, the Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry and the Mexican Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Secretariat:

Considering: The magnificent relations that they maintain in the energy field;

The need to progress in economic integration through the energy sector and the state enterprises that participate in it;

The mutual interest in ensuring that the petroleum industry more effectively contributes to the development of the two countries, supports their respective capital goods industries, replaces imports, and processes petroleum to increase its value;

The advisability of integrating the economies of their countries through economic complementarity, using the public sector enterprises as a dynamic and effective means to achieve this objective;

The need to establish mechanisms for an immediate response in accordance with the political will of their governments.

They have decided the following:

1. Exchange information on the supply and demand of materials for the industries of the petroleum and petrochemical sector in order to promote a reciprocal commercial flow that will lead to the replacement of the imports of materials from other countries and to a mutually favorable industrial complementarity.

2. Increase cooperation in the petrochemical field, including commercial aspects, in order to improve the placement of the primary and secondary petrochemical products of the industries of both countries in the foreign market.

3. Undertake joint efforts to promote technological research and development in petroleum and petrochemical areas of mutual interest and with application in both countries. In those cases in which one of the countries has specific technologies that would be useful to the other country, the corresponding transfer of technology will be negotiated.

4. Cooperate in the education and training of technical personnel in the diverse areas of specialization related with the petroleum industry through scientific and technical events. Both parties will keep informed on their ordinary and special academic programs so as to make reciprocal assistance feasible.

In order to implement the content of these points, the parties will instruct their respective state enterprises to study and develop specific programs to achieve the objectives of this program.

Caracas, 7 April 1984

Francisco Labastida Ochoa, Mexican Secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry

Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT STATISTICS -- Carlos Guillermo Rangel, member of the commission in charge of renegotiating Venezuela's foreign debt, has said that the amount subject to renegotiation has been reduced to $14,274 billion. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Manuel Aizpurua has announced that the overdue payments had been estimated at $200 million as of 16 March, of which $184.6 million have been canceled, and that the difference of $16 million will be paid this week. He added that the government has paid interest on $207 million during the past 2 weeks. In addition, Gustavo Galdo, public finances director, has said that Venezuela has cancelled between $750-$800 million of its foreign debt during the first quarter of the year. Venezuela's 1984 foreign debt has been estimated at $3 billion. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Apr 84 pp 1A,D13 PA]

OIL TANKERS TRANSPORT UNDOCUMENTED NICARAGUANS

PA200459 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Apr 84 p 11-A

[By Ricardo Figueroa]

[Text] Ciudad de Valles, San Luis Potosi, 17 Apr -- Dozens of undocumented Nicaraguans flee their country through Puerto Sandino and arrive at Tampico Port in Tamaulipas aboard Mexican oil tankers, later scattering to different parts of the country.

Manuel Camuto de Escoto, a 22-year-old undocumented Nicaraguan, passing through this city en route to the U.S. border where he will reunite with his mother said: "I came to Mexico through Tampico Port aboard a Mexican oil tanker along with 84 other undocumented compatriots who dispersed to different parts of the country." De Escoto said that he fled his country because he feared the rounding up of youths between the ages of 15 and 25 by the military junta in order to face the incursions by anti-Sandinists and Somozist groups headed by Eden Pastora. He said that the Mexican oiler crews are very much aware that they allow undocumented Nicaraguans aboard their ships to leave that Central American country.

De Escoto stressed that Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi are the areas where large numbers of undocumented Central Americans are likely to be found, and where there have been the greatest outbreaks of malaria, because many of the undocumented foreigners are already infected with the disease when they arrive. After saying that "Mexico is a paradise because there is liberty," De Escoto said that he is on the way to the northern border to seek entry into the United States.

PARAGUAY INTERESTED IN BUYING CRUDE OIL

FL201658 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1630 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Paraguayan Ambassador to Mexico Raul Gomez Nunez has told the Mexican Government newspaper EL NACIONAL that his country is interested in buying Mexican crude oil. Gomez Nunez said Paraguay currently buys oil from Argentina and Algeria, but that studies are underway on buying from Mexico, where it already buys typewriters and heavy equipment. He said buying crude oil from Mexico presents no difficulties because Paraguay's foreign debt is relatively low, and even though the country is poor, there is no hunger. Paraguay is considered a good risk in international financial circles.

LATIN AMERICAN OIL ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN MAY

FL201836 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1723 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico City will be the seat of the 19th regular assembly of the Latin American Petroleum Industry Mutual Aid Association (ARPEL), which will be held on 7 May 1984, according to a press communique issued by Pemex. The communique states that the meeting will be presided over by Pemex Director General Mario Ramon Beteta and the president of Paraguay's Petrobar, Julio C. Gutierrez, and will be attended by the directors of the petroleum enterprises of 12 member nations.

The goal of the ARPEL assembly is to get the 12 member nations to agree to draw up mutual cooperation agreements in support of their common interests, the Pemex communique says. The communique adds that Uruguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, and Mexico will participate in the assembly, and that the Mexican secretaries of foreign relations and energy, mines, and parastatal industry, Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Francisco Labastida Ochoa, respectively, have been invited to attend.

PANAMENIST PARTY BACKS ARDITO BARLETTA CANDIDACY

PA230120 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Apr 84 p 3 C

[Interview granted by Panamenist Party leader Luis Gaspar Suarez Sierra to LA REPUBLICA correspondent Jorge Calvo; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Why does the Panamenist Party, which you head, support [National Democratic Union, UNADE, candidate] Ardito Barletta? Does your party struggle for democracy, or do you simply oppose [National Opposition Alliance candidate] Arnulfo Arias?

Answer: If Arias could not rule at 40 or at 60, he will be even more unable to rule at 83, with an obsolete and backward platform that is entirely out of touch with reality. For this reason, we cannot back him. The Panamenist Party National Directorate unanimously supports the appeal to back Ardito Barletta and join the UNADE. We see Ardito Barletta as a different man. We have seen him fight the established pattern, that is to say, Arias. We see in Ardito Barletta a decent man who has not even answered the various accusations and innuendos from his opponents. I honestly feel that Ardito Barletta will be one of the greatest presidents this country has ever had, at the most difficult time in Latin America's and the world's political and economic history.

NEWSMEN DENY SIGNING ANTI-PAREDES NOTE

PA211340 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Apr 84 p 1

[Excerpt] LA PRENSA has been able to establish from well-informed sources that journalists from the Renovacion Publishing Company, Inc, ERSA, which publishes CRITICA, MATUTINO, LA REPUBLICA, and now DENUNCIA, never signed the note published in CRITICA notifying General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, that he would never again be mentioned in any of the ERSA newspapers.

The subject was brought up at the latest meeting of the board of directors of the Trade Union of Panamenian Journalists [SPP], during which it was established that many ERSA newsmen did not know that a protest of that nature would be published in response to the allegedly "foolish speech delivered by Paredes at the 1984 Annual Conference of Business Executives," and for this reason they are surprised and confused. Because the note was published without the newsmen being consulted, the board of directors of the SPP has sent a letter to ERSA General Manager Carlos Garcia. This letter protests the publishing of the note and requests a clarification.

BRIEFS

ITALIAN OFFICIAL VISITS -- Panamanian President Jorge Illueca received Susana Agnelli, Italy's deputy foreign minister, who is also the mayor of the commune of (Monte Argentario), a senator in Italy's Parliament, and member of the European Parliament, at the Presidential Palace. They exchanged views on the international situation and on bilateral relations. Giorgio Peca, Italy's ambassador to Panama, and Jose Maria Cabrera, Panama's deputy foreign minister, also attended the meeting. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Apr 84 PA]

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ SAYS EMBASSY TO REMAIN IN JERUSALEM

PA211954 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Cost Rican foreign minister, Carlos Gutierrez, today declared that despite the threat of the Islamic Committee to break off relations with Costa Rica, this country will not transfer its embassy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. Gutierrez maintained that the Costa Rican Embassy is in Jerusalem because the Israeli Government has declared that city its capital, and "this act is a sovereign declaration of the state."

Gutierrez pointed out that the diplomatic representation has been in Jerusalem for 2 years, and during that period "there was never a protest from the Islamic nations." He explained that the recent threat by the Islamic Committee is due to the fact that El Salvador also transferred its diplomatic representation to that city, while the U.S. Congress is studying a draft bill to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Gutierrez "deeply regrets the threat made by Islamic Committee, because Costa Rica wishes to maintain most cordial diplomatic relations with the Arab nations."

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA212042 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has reiterated on several occasions that no attack was launched from Costa Rica against the Sandinists who were defending San Juan del Norte. Gutierrez also scored the Sandinist junta for criticizing the fact that Costa Rican hospitals are treating people wounded in the war in Nicaragua. He reminded the members of the junta that Costa Rica also gave medical attention to people of both sides who were wounded during the 1978-79 revolution in that Central American country. Minister Gutierrez also backed his colleague Enrique Chacon, of the Government Ministry, whom Nicaraguan Commander Daniel Ortega has accused of receiving dollars from the United States in exchange for helping the counterrevolutionaries.

RADIO REPLIES TO NICARAGUAN COMMENT ON REPORTER

PA212149 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Last Sunday we learned that Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, had made serious charges against Enrique Chacon, Costa Rican deputy government minister. Commander Ortega said that the Costa Rican deputy minister was accepting money from the CIA to support the anti-Sandinists. During the same statement Daniel Ortega also made a serious threat against Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez, Radio Impacto's correspondent in Managua, because of his daily reports for all our listeners.

Ortego said he will not allow reporters working for LA PRENSA -- the only newspaper that opposes the regime -- who are also correspondents for Radio Impacto to continue issuing reports that he considers attacks on the Sandinist regime. The coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction referred specifically to a report by Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez in which Mora Sanchez mentioned the clamor of the mothers whose adolescent children are being sent to fight on the battle fronts. The report, a faithful reflection of the situation in Nicaragua, was a product of the objective journalistic work that distinguishes our companero Luis Manuel Mora.

Due to the serious threats made against our correspondent, many groups have voiced their concern. The Nicaraguan Social Democratic and Social Christian parties have sent letters to Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra pointing out the seriousness of his action. LA PRENSA also sent a telegram to IAPA protesting the threat.

ILLEGAL CUBAN EMIGRATION OPERATION UNCOVERED

PA140133 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The miscellaneous crime section of the Judicial Investigation Organization, OIJ, yesterday reported the discovery of an enormous traffic of Cubans from Costa Rica to the United States. The illegal organization was led by Cubans, who managed to leave the country when they realized that our authorities had discovered their illicit activity.

The Cubans had a nearly perfect operation to facilitate the departure of their countrymen in Costa Rica who were awaiting an opportunity to travel to the United States. Being aware of their countrymen's situation, the Cubans contacted these people and offered their services, involving the use of counterfeit passports and other fraudulent documents enabling them to leave Costa Rica for Panama.

The OIJ officials said that the Cubans provided their countrymen with very carefully forged immigration documents with which they could travel on foot to the border town of Paso de Canoa. From there, they went to the street separating Costa Rica and Panama and boarded a bus bound for Panama City. Once there, they took a charter flight to a place offering better access to the United States.

It was reported that the international criminals in charge of this business had been operating for at least 3 months. The business consisted of buying passports for $300, altering them, and finally selling the same passports for as much as $5,000.

EL SALVADOR

COMMENTS ON ARAB RESPONSE TO MOVING EMBASSY

Magana on Egyptian Reaction

PA230316 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Telephone interview granted by Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana to YSKL correspondent Raul Beltran; place not specified -- live]

[Excerpts] [Beltran] Mr President, we would like to learn the reaction of your government to the fact that the Egyptian Government has recalled its ambassador to El Salvador for consultations due to the Salvadoran Government's decision to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

[Magana] The only information I have comes from news agency reports saying that Egypt has recalled its ambassador for consultations, and that our ambassador in Egypt has been summoned to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. I am not very well informed, however, because I believe this happened on our last working day, and I have been out of touch.

Tomorrow I will begin receiving information; but in any case our decision to transfer the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was something that had been under study for almost a year, and we finally made the decision. This will bother some Arab countries, but I believe it was a necessary and advisable decision for the interests of the country.

Rebels Expect Arab Aid

PA222316 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2220 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Salvadoran guerrillas have said that they expect an increase in the support from the Arab states as a result of the Salvadoran Government's decision to transfer its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. A spokesman for the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers (PRTC) told LATIN-REUTER that an increase in Arab aid to the insurgents "makes sense and is probable." The comment was made yesterday during an interview in the Salvadoran department of Usulutan. The Islamic Conference organization yesterday asked all the Muslim countries to break relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica because these two countries transferred their embassies to Jerusalem.

Rebel sources said that the PRTC and at least two other rebel groups fighting against the Salvadoran Army have received military aid from Libya. They added that combatants of the three groups received training in Libya, and that a Libyan aircraft detained last year by Brazil was transporting weapons for the Salvadoran rebels. The rebel sources said that the Salvadoran Government's decision to transfer its embassy was made under pressure from Israel, a country that has given the government weapons to fight the rebels.

PCN DENIES ARENA ALLIANCE, REAFFIRMS NEUTRALITY

PA230336 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] The top-ranking leaders of the National Conciliation Party [PCN] today confirmed that no national alliance with ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] has been formed. Asked about a program held in San Vicente Department with the participation of the secretaries general and leaders of the Democratic Action Party, the PCN, and other political groups supporting ARENA, the PCN leaders in San Salvador said there is no alliance, nor will there be one, either before or after the elections. They said that the PCN has decided to remain neutral during the second electoral round. They added that everyone is aware of the under-the-table alliances among ARENA, PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party], PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party], and some isolated leaders of the PCN who have disobeyed the Executive Committee and violated the rules of the party, as was the case in San Vicente. These members, they added, will be expelled from the party.

MILITARY CLASHES REPORTED IN MORAZAN, USULUTAN

Casualties in Morazan

PA200156 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] In Morazan, our forces are fighting and weakening the dictatorship's army. Units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade yesterday, 18 April, began a maneuver that included attacks on several enemy garrisons and control of the military route in Morazan Department.

Our forces attacked the positions of the puppet army in Jocoro and Delicias de Concepcion, and the area known as (El Portillo del Soldado). These actions were combined with control over a stretch of the military route and several ambushes. An Army company was completely dislodged from the stretch of the military route between Santa Rosa de Lima and the turnoff to San Francisco Gotera. As a result, our revolutionary forces controlled the road. The Lenca Battalion was sent from San Francisco Gotera to regain control of this road, but these troops were hit, held back, and had to withdraw without accomplishing their mission.

Other reports from Morazan indicate that Colonel Jorge Adalberto Cruz, commander of the San Francisco Gotera garrison, was ambushed when he was traveling in a military vehicle on the military route. Several members of Col Cruz' guard were killed and wounded in that attack between Jocoro and the turnoff to San Francisco Gotera.

The reports of yesterday's fighting in Morazan indicate that we have inflicted 25 casualties on [Salvadoran Defense Minister] Vides Casanova's puppet army. Seven soldiers were killed and 18 were wounded due to the high command's irresponsibility of sending young recruits to the battlefield. In Morazan our weapons fight Yankee imperialism's puppet army.

FMLN Fights Arce Battalion

PA210236 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpt] We have been informed from Cacahuatique Hill, Morazan Department, that FMLN militamen have clashed with Arce Battalion troops who were trying to advance toward positions on Cacahuatique Hill. The fighting took place today, 20 April, in the area known as Los Avelines. During the clash the Arce Battalion troops suffered four dead and three wounded. Our companeros reported no problems.

This is the way the FMLN forces fight. This is the way we hit and wear our enemy out. Our militia units, made up of peasants, hit the Arce troops who went to Honduras to be trained by Gringo advisers and who have come back only to be defeated. This is the heroism and capacity of our people. Onward, companeros, the victory is ours.

Attention, attention, an up to the minute report confirms that the Arce Battalion troops suffered eight wounded during today's fighting in Cacahuatique Hill. The Arce Battalion suffered eight wounded and four dead during the fighting reported in the area known as (Los Avelines). Our militia units defeated the enemy. They defeated the battalion that had to go to Honduras to be trained by the Gringo advisers and came back only to be defeated. Onward, militia companeros, the victory is ours.

Two Killed in Usulutan

PA230401 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Fighting broke out yesterday afternoon in (Linare el Cauletal) hamlet, Usulutan Department, resulting in two soldiers killed and four others wounded. It is not known how many FMLN rebels were killed or wounded. Meanwhile, the power outage in the capital city of Usulutan Department, 100 km southeast of San Salvador, was repaired last night by a CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] crew in Usulutan.

VENCEREMOS VIEWS U.S. HELICOPTERS INCIDENT

Reagan Policy Link Charged

PA210319 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Ronald Reagan's government has just officially declared that the two helicopters allegedly shot at on the border between El Salvador and Honduras are proof of the need to increase military aid for the Salvadoran puppet army and to approve $8 billion to protect Central America. The official statements made by Reagan's government have begun to confirm the information we provided, in the sense that the lie regarding the helicopters shot at over Honduras were only a ploy to justify greater intervention in our country and new aggressive actions.

Regan lost no time in defending before the U.S. Congress his plan to continue increasing the military aid that is so criticized and questioned by some at Congress because of its [word indistinct] and evident purpose of creating all the conditions for the intervention in El Salvador.

In the same way, John Dimitri Negroponte, U.S. ambassador to Honduras, lost no time in using the blatant lie to justify the relocation of the Colomoncagua refugee camps. This measure is intended to free the border line to establish in that area some of the U.S. troops currently in Honduras, and in this manner enter the phase of direct military operations by the U.S. Army against our territory.

In this manner, Reagan plans to begin to convince U.S. public opinion and the Congress of the reason for the clashes and attacks against our forces and in this way to progressively advance with his intervention plan.

Our people must remain alert because the U.S. Government's blatant lie is being used to justify the increase of economic and military aid for Magana's puppet government. As of now, he seeks to find political justifications for future direct military aggression against our forces and our territory. [passage indistinct]

Alleges Negroponte 'Lied'

PA220221 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] U.S. diplomats in Tegucigalpa have acknowledged the possibility that the two helicopters shot at by the FMLN's antiaircraft fire could have flown over El Salvador. On Wednesday, 18 April, two U.S. helicopters entered our airspace through Morazan Department and were repelled by the FMLN's antiaircraft fire. Following this incident John Dimitri Negroponte, U.S. ambassador to Honduras, blatantly lied to the press when he said that the helicopters were shot at while over Honduras. The statement by Negroponte was intended solely to justify a greater level of U.S. intervention in our homeland.

VENCEREMOS NOTES START OF 'OCEAN VENTURE-84'

PA210212 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Today, 20 April, the U.S. Armed Forces began the "Ocean Venture 84" military maneuvers. The maneuvers are being held in the Caribbean and in Florida with the participation of 30,000 U.S. soldiers. In the Caribbean these maneuvers are being held near Puerto Rico and Cuba. Many war planes and their carriers in addition to (?850) landing craft are also participating in these maneuvers.

The "Ocean Venture 84" maneuvers that include exercises such as troop landings and air attacks will conclude on 6 May. With these maneuvers, as with the "Big Pine" and "Grenadier" maneuvers being held in Honduras, the U.S. Government is trying to train its troops for intervention in other countries and to show its strength in an attempt to intimidate Cuba, Nicaragua, and FMLN.

VENCEREMOS CRITICIZES 6 MAY RUNOFF ELECTIONS

PA222046 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Salvadorans, what good are the elections of the dictatorship if they will be a fraud, just like those of 25 March? The corrupt assembly has already announced that the elections will be held without an electoral registry. This opens the doors to a new fraud and to the manipulation of results.

The Salvadoran people wonder: "What happened to the 25 million colones that the Gringos gave to the Magana puppet regime so that it would have the famous electoral registries and so it could buy sophisticated computers? Now it is becoming obvious that the 25 million colones the Gringos gave to the regime have been stolen by the members of the Central Electoral Council and used to make much propaganda and much ado with the lie that there will be clean elections.

Salvadorans: What good are the elections if they are not going to help the peasants, the workers, the employees get out of the poverty and anguish in which they live? What good is voting if it is not going to result in better salaries, or in respect for the rights of the workers? What good are the elections if they don't stop repression against the people, if they don't stop the bombing of cantons and villages or the kidnapping and killings by the Treasury Police and the National Guard under the cover of the death squads?

Salvadorans: What good are the elections of the dictatorship if our fatherland is going to continue sinking under the domination of the multi-million dollar debt to the U.S. Government? What good is voting if this will not provide independence or respect for sovereignty? What good are the elections if they are just a political coverup to prepare the way for a Gringo intervention, for an invasion by U.S. troops of our fatherland?

Salvadorans: What good are the 6 May elections if it is the big bosses of the political parties -- who represent the rich -- the fascist and criminal high command, and the U.S. Embassy who decide the election results?

Salvadorans: The elections are not the solution to the people's grave social and economic problems. These problems will be solved by the revolution! The FMLN will fight before, during, and after the elections!

Let's strengthen the people's organization! Let's continue the recovery struggle of the workers! Let's deepen the revolutionary war to overthrow the puppet dictatorship! These are the alternatives of the Salvadoran people!

VENCEREMOS SAYS AIR FORCE BOMBED ARMY TROOPS

PA221955 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Please pay attention to this report from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front in San Vicente Department: The enemies of the people are killing each other.

A small reconnaissance plane has bombed positions of the dictatorship's troops. It bombed the positions of the Atonal Battalion at a place known as (Linares El Cauletal), near Barrio Nuevo in south San Vicente Department. As a result of this bombing, one soldier died and eight were wounded, including a corporal. All of the casualties belonged to the Atonal Battalion. The enemy Air Force has inflicted nine casualties on the Atonal Battalion.

GUATEMALA

MINISTRY DENIES EMBASSY ASYLUM SEEKERS HINDERED

PA212306 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2347 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Guatemala, 18 Apr (DPA) -- The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry today denied that "heavily armed men" are prowling near the embassies accredited to the country to prevent persons from seeking diplomatic asylum. Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran rejected reports from Canada that alleged death squad members are lurking in front of the embassies, saying that "such reports are false and tendentious." He said that on the contrary the government is granting facilities to persons who for any reason want to leave the country.

The international wire dispatches from Canada warned persons who might want to seek asylum in order to leave Guatemala that they could do so through other contacts [otros contactos] with the Canadian Embassy so as not to risk being captured. A few weeks ago a labor leader who was being led in handcuffs by heavily armed unidentified men managed to escape from them in broad daylight and jump inside the garden of the Belgian Embassy. He was wounded by a bullet fired by his captors, however, and had to be taken to a hospital under Belgian Embassy and police protection. Later the government granted him permission to leave the country by way of Canada. This incident was never clarified, and his captors were not identified either.

HONDURAS

SALVADORAN PLANE MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING

PA201414 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Siguatepeque -- The people of Siguatepeque yesterday, Wednesday, became alarmed upon learning that a miliary plane which, according to unofficial reports... [leaves sentence unfinished]. We have been trying to confirm this version with official sources, but it has not been possible to locate Colonel (Montes Nunez), who recently took over the post of commander of the 1st Engineers' Battalion here in Siguatepeque. Since we could not locate Col (Montes Nunez), we could not confirm the report that the military plane that fell yesterday afternoon here in Siguatepeque is a Salvadoran aircraft.

We did talk to the plane's captain, however. He is Captain (Eden Panameno), who was very reticent -- understandably so, for security reasons -- about providing additional information on the landing of this Salvadoran military plane at the (Alas del Socorro) landing strip here in Siguatpeque. We were informed unofficially, however, that the plane landed here due to mechanical problems while overflying Siguatepeque at an altitude of 3,000 ft. The plane had to make an emergency landing. Apparently they had to jettison all the fuel and cargo they were carrying in order to reduce the aircraft's weight and thus be able to land. The landing was successful. The plane is currently being repaired at the (Alas del Socorro) landing strip here in Siguatepeque.

According to Capt (Panameno), the mechanical problem resulted from a defect in engine No 2, which began giving them trouble shortly before entering the area over Siguatepeque.

We repeat, the plane is a military aircraft. We are not sure about the kind of plane; it looks like a light bomber or a military transport plane; we are not sure. The plane is here, however, in Siguatepeque and is of Salvadoran origin. We repeat, additional information has not been supplied for security reasons. We will again try to contact Col (Montes Nunez), commander of the 1st Engineers' Battalion here in Siguatepeque, as we have been told that he is the only one authorized to provide any information in this connection.

PAZ BARNICA ON EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD C.A.

PM191522 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 10 Apr 84 p 2

[Interview with Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica by Jesus Estevez in Madrid; no date given]

[Excerpt] Question: What is your opinion on the attitude of the Socialist International in general and of the Spanish Government toward the Latin American conflict?

Answer: On this issue I wish to be very clear, as I have been on various occasions. The Government of Honduras has regarded and regards as essential the cooperation of international political organizations of a democratic nature in order to contribute to a peaceful resolution to the Central American crisis. On many occasions we have stressed in international forums our interest in bodies such as the Socialist International, the Christian Democratic International, and the Liberal International converging in their aims in order to resolve the crisis shaking Central America. The international social democratic movement, because it is composed of highly democratic parties, could contribute a major resolution to the conflict by giving determined support to the Central American democratic regimes, such as Costa Rica and Honduras currently are.

There can be no peace if there are no democratic governments, and, regrettably, there is none in Nicaragua, just as there are none in other Central American countries. A comprehensive democratization process in Central America is necessary, which will include respect for human rights, a process of national reconciliation in those countries in which there are internal conflicts, and an election process in keeping with the lines which are being laid down by the Contadora Group. Peace, we are certain, can and will be achieved, and we reject a military solution.

"Spain Cannot Support Totalitarian Regimes"

Question: Let us discuss your talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Answer: I had a 1 and 1/2 hour conversation with him Friday [6 April], and I expressed to him our friendship, as well as our appreciation for his peacemaking efforts. We discussed the workings of the Contadora Group. We agreed that peace is essential for Central America and that peace should be global and regional. I told him that the foundations of a pluralist democracy, which is the product of free and fair elections, are necessary to achieve this. I told him that the democratic European governments, such as Spain's, should have a more active political presence in Central America in the following way: that they give full support and backing to the region's democratic governments, such as Honduras and Costa Rica, because I do not believe that a democratic government such as Spain's will give its support to a totalitarian or dictatorial regime.

Question: Are you referring to Nicaragua?

Answer: To any regime, irrespective of its political connotation. The extreme right is as reprehensible as the extreme left.

"We Will Never Have Foreign Military Bases"

Question: Do you believe that the intermittent U.S. maneuvers in Honduras do not help to ease the tension?

Answer: In September and January documents were drafted with the Contadora Group which state that in the event of military maneuvers in the area with a foreign country's participation, there is only an obligation on the part of the countries where the exercises are carried out to inform the others. But let us come to the point. Honduras has occasionally carried out military exercises with the United States since 1968, on the basis of a bilateral treaty of 1954. These maneuvers, which are still being carried out, are in the first place of a strictly temporary nature; moreover, their aim is to prepare the Honduran Armed Forces technically for their professionalization and modernization. They also have another aim: to be a deterrent factor in the face of the Nicaraguan threat stemming from that country's excessive militarism. Honduras will never be a party to an attack on anybody.

Question: Could the constant U.S. military maneuvers lead to the establishment of permanent U.S. military bases in Honduras?

Answer: There is no foreign military base in Honduras, nor is there a definite intention to that end. No permanent foreign base will ever, I believe, be set up in Honduras. Training centers may be set up, but under Honduran control and sovereignty.

Question: At the Madrid meeting the leaders of the Socialist International have expressed their concern about the mining of Nicaragua's ports.

Answer: Honduras has nothing to do with the laying of mines in Nicaraguan ports. In Nicaragua there is an internal struggle of Nicaraguans against Nicaraguans. This is a fact. We believe that violence should not be used, whatever its origin.

"Alvarez' Dismissal a Shared Initiative"

Question: Could the ouster, dismissal, or resignation of General Gustavo Alvarez -- who is regarded, led us say, as a more bellicose military man as regards the Central American situation -- as chief of the Honduran Armed Forces contribute to greater caution on the part of Tegucigalpa?

Answer: I have already told you that what happens in one country affects others. Security problems affect various countries, and so do those of democracy. A reorganization or internal restructuring of the Armed Forces occurred in Honduras Saturday 30 March, which let to Gen Alvarez' resignation, in accordance with the legal rules in force for the Armed Forces and with the Constitution, his departure from the country. A report on this topic has been published in EL Pais that in my view has aspects that do not correspond to reality, not through the author's fault but that of his sources of information. The restructuring took place under President Suazo Cordoba's direction and guidance. It is said that he was opposed to it -- quite the contrary. This is clear from the messages disseminated by the president on that day and by Alvarez' successor, General Walter Lopez, in which the primacy of the civil power over the military power is made clear and which emphasize that the restructuring is aimed at the enhancement of internal democracy.

Question: Do you not believe that the matter would have been clarified, without giving the impression that the president was confronted with a fait accompli, if Suazo Cordoba, using the powers conferred on him by the Constitution, had taken the intiative in the dismissal?

Answer: Do not forget that the legal provisions concerning the matter must be observed, and that this internal reorganization was unanimously agreed upon by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who is the president of the Republic, and the Armed Forces General Staff.

Question: You were with Gen Alvarez in Costa Rica, you were the last member of the government who spoke with him and conveyed to him the president's regret.

Answer: I did indeed speak with him in San Jose, Costa Rica, about general matters, and he told me the same thing that he said afterward at his press conference in San Jose: that he had left Honduras handcuffed like a criminal, that his resignation has not been voluntary, what would the United States say about this, and things of that kind.

NICARAGUA

U.S. FRIGATE IMPLICATED IN RECENT CONTRA ATTACK

PA211508 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1355 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Radio Sandino listeners, our news department's teletype room has received a report on activity in Central America during the past week. The counterrevolutionaries' failure to bring areas in northern and southern Nicaragua under their control, the report says, is the most prominent Central American news for the week that ends today.

This thwarted effort, which took place in an area some 300 km from Managua and only 2 km from Costa Rica, was carried out by 500 mercenaries from the counterrevolutionary bands that are equipped by the CIA. They encountered firm resistance from the garrison [words indistinct] Once again, that highly inaccessible area was shelled from the sea by a U.S. frigate stationed in the vicinity, in another dangerous instance of direct U.S. intervention against Nicaragua. [passage indistinct]

HUMBERTO ORTEGA VISITS MISKITO SETTLEMENT

PA221924 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Reagan's bloody war against Nicaragua is continuing Commander Humberto Ortega said yesterday. Commander Ortega yesterday visited the settlement of Sumubila at Tasba Pry. The defense minister and Commander of the Sandinist People's Militia [MPS] said that the attack carried out against the settlements of Sumubila by a counterrevolutionary task force made evident the contras' bloodthirsty nature and the fact that Reagan's interventionist war against Nicaragua is continuing. The revolutionary leader said that according to initial estimates, the counterrevolutionaries caused 6-million cordobas in loses in their 17 April attack.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] During this visit to Sumubila, which is one of the Tasba Pry settlements, as you know, we have seen the destruction sowed against Nicaragua by the mercenary counterrevolutionaries of the CIA who obey the imperialist war dictates of Mr Reagan.

There is the destruction of the health center. We have seen how it was totally burned. You have also seen how the cocoa plantation project that employs 300 Miskito townspeople was destroyed. Now they will be temporarily without jobs.

Fortunately, they did not take notice of the nursery with more than 80,000 cocoa plants ready to be planted. But they did destroy cocoa project material and transportation equipment. They also destroyed the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform offices and the recreation center. The Moravian center was also damaged by the indiscriminate attacks of the mercenary counterrevolutionaries directed by the CIA.

The most painful thing was seeing the relatives of the casualties, especially those of the 2-year-old boy who was killed and the woman who was machinegunned by the counterrevolutionaries. We listened to the mother of the 9-year-old boy who was killed. We heard her explain that the counterrevolutionaries would not allow her to tend to her wounded child, to give him a last word of consolation.

During this visit we have been able to establish the criminal, bloodthirsty nature of the CIA bands. We have seen here that the interventionist war that the United States is directing against Nicaragua is continuing, that it is being intensified from Honduras and Costa Rica. And there is the mining of our ports. You have already been informed that another mine exploded yesterday at the entrance of Puerto Sandino.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, what damage, how many casualties were there in the criminal attack on Sumubila? Was anyone kidnapped?

[Ortega] The damage is still being assessed. There was damage at the Victor Manuel Ruiz cocoa project, at the local offices of the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform, at the health center, and at the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute. We have accounted for more than 6-million cordobas in damage so far, but the total has not yet been established.

Seven Miskitos were killed, including the 2-year-old boy and Fermin Povea, the 9-year-old boy. Fourteen persons were wounded. Only one Armed Forces member, a policeman. This was an indiscriminate attack against the Miskito settlement, which is slowly making social and economic advances.

A total of 39 persons were kidnapped. I understand that several of them have been able to escape from their kidnappers, and they will be presented to our people as soon as they recover from their wounds and have rested.

[Unidentified reporter] Have the counterrevolutionaries fled toward Honduras?

[Ortega] They attacked the settlement, and now they are withdrawing north, toward Honduras.

[Unidentified reporter] How many were there?

[Ortega] This was part of a task force. Approximately 200 counterrevolutionaries participated in the attack. Approximately 100 participated in the direct attack against the settlement; the other 100 had taken positions to protect the attackers. [end recording]

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE

ARDE Disputes AP Report

PA191850 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Station commentary: "An Agency That Deceives"]

[Text] AP and its correspondent in Costa Rica, (James Foster), have misrepresented the armed struggle that the armed forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, are currently waging in Nicaragua. The headline of his report was deceiving, reporting that Commander Eden Pastora and many of his forces had withdrawn from the harassed port of San Juan del Norte on the Atlantic Coast. This is completely absurd. All the positions in this old port are being held, and it has been impossible for the Stalinist forces to penetrate a single inch despite intense bombing by push-and-pull airplanes and shelling by ships off the Atlantic coast.

ARDE spokesman Orion Elpidio Pastora announced in a last-minute report that the rebel forces are still being harassed [words indistinct] offensive to recapture San Juan del Norte launched by those misruling from Managua. But the rebel forces remain firm in their positions. The misrulers in Managua have irresponsibly echoed the AP report, announcing that they have expelled the rebel forces. This is an effort to deceive, which they usually do for their own benefit.

AP's (Foster) could not enter the combat area, since Commander Pastora had instructed that no newsmen would be allowed into this zone because of the dangers they might face. (Foster) himself reported that from a distance one could hear the planes and the artillery fire.

When approached in connection with the disinformation about the recapture of the Port of San Juan del Norte, (Foster) explained that when he saw the ARDE rebels leaving, he thought the rebel forces were abandoning the port. It was explained to him that these guerrillas were being replaced by fresh groups because they had been in the area since the port was first seized. From its headquarters in New York, AP corrected its information, explaining that the ARDE forces led by Commander Eden Pastora still remain in the Port of San Juan del Norte, but under strong harassment from air and sea. ARDE will not let a single inch of liberated territory fall back into the hands of the traitors and adventurers of international communism.

Free fatherland or death!

15 EPS Troops Reported Killed

PA201653 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1507 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Managua, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Fifteen Nicaraguan Army soldiers were killed in the fighting in San Juan del Norte, a border post in the country's southeastern region, Sandinist military authorities have confirmed. Commander Roberto Calderon, military commander of the country's southern zone, told a group of foreign newsmen that a detachment of 78 soldiers was defending the San Juan del Norte garrison. He explained that 15 of the Sandinist soldiers were killed in the clashes and were buried in San Juan del Norte, while the rest are considered wounded or missing. The Nicaraguan Government invited a group of foreign newsmen to enter the border post, 2 km from the Costa Rican border, for the first time yesterday.

Nicaraguan Democratic Alliance (ARDE) forces let by Eden Pastora, "Commander Cero," occupied San Juan del Norte from 13 to 17 April, after several clashes which began on 8 April. The latter was confirmed by newsmen, who were at the former Nicaraguan post for several hours yesterday and observed the existence of 12 graves and 12 homes that had been destroyed. The newsmen indicated that only a few headstones of the "British cemetery" were left standing. A religious temple was also destroyed in the fighting.

Commander Calderon reported that Sandinist People's Army (EPS) troops who deployed "permanently" along the border region were the ones who dislodged the ARDE detachment from the border post. He indicated that the initial armed clashes between the forces of Pastora and the EPS occurred on 15 April. He said that after that date "the mercenaries fled toward Costa Rica in disarray."

According to Calderon, the position was recovered definitively on 17 April when ARDE columns fled toward Costa Rica in a yacht and five boats. The military commander explained that the rebels led by Pastora reached San Juan del Norte in small boats, navigating the small rivers that connect with the San Juan River, the Nicaraguan river that serves as a border with Costa Rica. Calderon said that the rebels abandoned in San Juan del Norte eight U.S.-made "Claymore mines" as well as ammunition and other was materiel.

Army Girds for Attack

PA201845 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1752 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Managua, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Army will increase its military strength to defend the border post of San Juan del Norte for fear of a new attack by Pastora. Commander Roberto Calderon, military commander of the country's southern region, told a group of newsmen in San Juan del Norte that the position in southern Nicaragua, only 2 km from the Costa Rican border, may be attacked again.

The San Juan del Norte post was defended by 78 Sandinist soldiers, 15 of whom were killed in the fighting and buried in the trenches that had been dug to defend the military post. The Army considers the rest of the detachment "missing," although there are reports that some wounded soldiers are in hospitals in Costa Rica.

According to Commander Calderon, the Managua Foreign Ministry is making efforts to obtain the return of the wounded Sandinist combatants. Commander Calderon identified the chief of the San Juan del Norte garrison killed in the fighting as Sublieutenant Lino Mendoza, a native of Santo Tomas, Chontales Province, who was also commander of a militia battalion

Calderon admitted that Pastora's forces were bombed by the Sandinist Air Force when they occupied the border post but denied that nine ships had participated in a naval attack on the ARDE columns. He said that only three fishing boats equipped with machine guns had participated in the operation to oust Pastora's rebel guerrillas.

ARDE on Returning 'Hostages'

PA221520 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] The Sandinists do not want to negotiate the release of hostages with ARDE [Democratc Revolutionary Alliance], according to information revealed by ARDE.

ARDE sources have reported having problems with the approximately 60 Sandinists captured during the occupation of San Juan del Norte. The ARDE high command contacted the Sandinist Government by radio, but Managua replied that ARDE could do whatever it wanted with them.

ARDE wanted to negotiate with the Sandinists, in conformity with the standards that govern the situation of hostages in times of war. The answer from Managua was: Why would we want them, as they betrayed the country by failing to defend it. Eden Pastora wanted to turn the 60 hostages, including women and children, over to the Costa Rican Red Cross, but the state of war on the Costa Rican border prevents the mobilization of such a large group.

ARDE REPORTS ON DIRECTORATE'S EUROPEAN TOUR

PA200317 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Communique released by the Press and Propaganda Secretariat of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 18 April]

[Text] The Press and Propaganda Secretariat of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, informs the people of Nicaragua and the free governments and peoples of the world that:

1. In following the ARDE revolutionary directorate's tour of several European democratic countries, we report that our delegation, headed by Alfonso Robelo Callejas, coordinator of ARDE's revolutionary political directorate; accompanied by union leader Donald Castillo Orozco, member of ARDE's revolutionary directorate; and by Monsignor Jaime Vega and Donald Castillo Rivas, arrived in Paris, France, on 17 April to meet with French diplomats, parliamentarians, politicians, union leaders, and government officials.

2. The delegation has informed this secretariat that the explanation presented on ARDE's stance regarding the upcoming elections in Nicaragua and which is included in the six conditions proposed by ARDE as necessary for a free election have been seriously considered, since they constitute a definite political step toward the path that will guarantee the elections for our people and peace in Central America.

3. Alfonso Robelo Callejas and his committee were interviewed yesterday by the major French television networks. On 18 April 1984, a press conference was held for 62 journalists who represented the most important communications media in France, Europe and other continents. While the press conference was being held, several persons manipulated by the Nicaraguan Embassy in France disrupted the conference with the usual insults and slogans. This incident caused displeasure and was repudiated by the local and international press covering the press conference.

4. Union leader Donald Castillo Orozco, member of ARDE's revolutionary directorate, talked with several French union leaders regarding the labor situation in Nicaragua. According to his report to this secretariat, his accounts, presented with proof, generated much concern among the sectors of the French free union movement.

5. In conclusion, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, coordinator of ARDE's revolutionary political directorate, reported that the directorate today held an important meeting with French parliamentarians. The French parliamentarians were headed by Dr Simone Well, leader of the opposition fraction at the French parliament.

Meanwhile, the Socialist Party's parliamentarians were very interested in ARDE's stance regarding a free and legitimate electoral process in our homeland.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

VOICE OF SANDINO BROADCASTS ARDE WAR BULLETINS

Clashes with EPS

PA200429 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 19 Apr 84

[War Bulletin No 214 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, "free territory of Nicaragua," dated 19 April]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command informs the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world that:

1. At 0900 on 27 March in a place known as El Silencio del Almendro, Rio San Juan Department, the Cobra Unit of the Wenceslao Aviles Column led by Companero Gorrion fought for 4 hours against special troops of the pro-Soviet army, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], inflicting 11 dead and 38 wounded on the enemy. On that same day at 1000, the Cobra Unit of the Wenceslao Aviles Column clashed with the enemy Battalion 60-10 in the place known as El Espino Blanco, Rio San Juan Department. During the 3-hour clash the enemy suffered 11 dead and 12 wounded.

On 29 March at 0520, also in El Espino Blanco, fighting was reported for 5 hours during which 23 dead and 13 wounded were inflicted on the enemy. Battalion 60-10 was forced to retreat.

On 30 March at 1700, the enemy was caught by surprise in the same area and suffered three dead and one wounded. The remaining members of the battalion fled.

On 7 April at 0830 the Cobra Unit led by Companero Siete Leguas was ambushed by a patrol of the invading army in the area known as El Chilamate. Thanks to their experience and military knowledge, our unit was able to overcome the surprise and counterattacked, inflicting four dead on the enemy. We report that our Companeros Estrella and Olivero were wounded.

2. The Coral Unit of the Raimundo Gonzalez column led by Companero Hormiga reports that on 22 March at 1400 in a place known as El Paparazo, Rio San Juan Department, an enemy patrol was ambushed suffering eight dead and five wounded.

On 23 March and in the same area, another patrol was ambushed at 0700. The enemy suffered three dead and four wounded.

On 7 April at 0730 and in the same place a patrol of the pro-Soviet army, the EPS, was ambushed and eight dead were inflicted on the enemy.

On the next day at 0800 in the same area, another enemy patrol was ambushed and the enemy suffered 9 dead and 11 wounded during a military action that lasted 30 minutes.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Fighting in Rio San Juan

PA200453 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 19 Apr 84

[War Bulletin No 215 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, "free territory of Nicaragua," on 19 April]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command informs the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world that:

1. On 29 March at 0700 the Miguel Miranda (Tajon) of the Alvaro Lopez Castillo Column led by Companero Gavilan in the El Chilamate region, Rio San Juan Department, clashed with the enemy, inflicting three dead and two wounded. We recovered one Soviet-made AK rifle and its ammunition. The enemy was forced to flee. At 1100 the enemy was caught by our forces and during a battle that lasted approximately 3 hours the enemy suffered 9 dead and 12 wounded.

2. On 31 March at 0900, the Coral Unit of the Alvaro Lopez Castillo Column led by Companero Gato, in a place known as La Laguna, Rio San Juan Department, ambushed a jeep belonging to the occupation army. The enemy suffered three dead during this ambush. On the next day, 1 April, and in the same area, a Coral Unit reconnaissance patrol led by Companero [name indistinct] clashed with an enemy detachment inflicting six dead on the enemy. We report the death of Companero Conquista.

3. The ("Piranha") Unit of the General Francisco Estrada Column led by Companero Elvin harassed the Los Angeles military post, 6 km southeast of the town of Nueva Guinea. During this activity carried out at 0400 on 17 April, the guard was killed.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

ARDE: SANDINIST PLANES ATTACK TWO CAMPS

PA211947 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Rebel sources today said in this capital that two "push-and-pull" airplanes attacked two camps of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) on Thursday afternoon and at noon on Friday, destroying one of them. The first attack was directed at the "Aguila" base, 18 km from San Juan del Norte, but the planes were repelled by antiaircraft fire and caused no damage or casualties. Our source said that in the second attack the FAS [Sandinist Air Force] destroyed the "Cisne" base at the mouth of the San Carlos River, a tributary of the San Juan River, which forms the [Costa Rican] border. In addition, three members of the forces led by Commander Eden Pastora, two Nicaraguans and a Costa Rican, were seriously injured and were taken by the Red Cross to Costa Rican hospitals.

According to reports received from residents of the border region and from Orion Pastora, the ARDE spokesman in this capital, "the plane which bombed and destroyed the 'Cisne' base violated Costa Rican airspace before attacking." So far, neither the Civil Guard nor the Rural Guard, which have surveillance posts near the mouth of the San Carlos River, have confirmed these reports. In this regard, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez this morning said that if the violation of the nation's sovereignty is confirmed, the government will present a vigorous protest note to Nicaragua.

DPRK EMBASSY ATTACHE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

FL201322 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel (Yi Pok Chon), military attache at the DPRK Embassy in Cuba, yesterday held a press conference on the 25 April commemoration of the 52d [as heard] anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army. (Yi Pok Chon) stressed that this new anniversary finds the Korean People's Army stronger and more invincible than ever, with a high degree of politico-ideological development, powerful arms, and modern technology, and a strong will to repel any aggression by the reactionary circles of Washington and Seoul.

Under the leadership of Kim Il-Song, the DPRK people and army are preparing for defense and are fortifying their nation to make it an invincible bastion in the struggle for peace and national reunification, despite the aggressive provocations of the enemy. (Yi Pok Chon) denounced the gigantic aggressive maneuvers the Pentagon and its puppets are holding in South Korea, describing them as the first simulated nuclear attack by imperialists against his homeland.

[Begin (Yi Pok Chon) recording] A few years ago the enemy started to install nuclear arms. Today, approximately 1,000 nuclear warheads have been stored in South Korea. South Korea has thus become an advanced nuclear outpost of the Yankees. If war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula it will immediately become a nuclear war. [end recording]

AFGHAN ENVOY COMMEMORATES REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

FL201528 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] (Abdul Famat), the Afghan ambassador to Cuba, has held a press conference to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the triumph of the April revolution in that brother country. He said that before the revolution Afghanistan was one of the least developed nations; 70 percent of the population was illiterate and less than 1 percent of the national income was spent on health.

As a consequence of the revolution, large landholdings consisting of 40 percent of the nation's arable land were confiscated, a total of 300,000 hectares of land was distributed to the peasants, cooperatives were organized in which more than 1,200 members participate and 11 million peasants were freed from the system of feudal exploitation.

The achievements of the revolution have been modest but steady in 6 years, agricultural production has grown more than 5 percent and livestock production more than 9 percent, and 87 industrial projects of a total of 249 under construction in Afghanistan have begun production. Included in the economic success of the Afghan revolution are annual natural gas production of 2.7 million cubic meters, and an increase of more than 3 percent in the production of electricity.

The United States, its NATO allies, and its puppets in the area have tried to hinder the Afghan revolutionary process. Bandits attacking from Pakistan have destroyed 1,814 schools, 111 health centers, and 5 hospitals. They have poisoned the people's water and food. They have murdered children as a stratagem of terror to keep them from attending school. They have carried out numerous acts of sabotage.

Washington, Beijing, and their allies are training counterrevolutionary forces in more than 100 camps in Pakistan. Last year the Pentagon gave $150 million in arms to the counterrevolutionary bands and this year the CIA has so far given $80 million to the counterrevolution. The Afghan ambassador said the revolution is carrying on despite imperialist attacks, thanks to the solidarity of the USSR, other socialist nations, and the world's revolutionary democratic forces.

On the coming sixth anniversary of the Afghan revolution, which is commemorated on 20 March [as heard], our people will continue to advance along the revolutionary path and, as our leader Babrak Karmal said, we will not deviate from the chosen path, (Abdul Famat) said.

[Begin (Abdul Famat) recording -- English with simultaneous Spanish translation] I take this opportunity to ask the esteemed international journalists to connect the warm, extended hands of the Afghan people with the hands of the peoples of their countries and of the world to inform the nations of the world that we Afghans are a peace-loving people who have firmly decided to build our society to eliminate backwardness and to live in freedom and justice. Ask the peoples of the world to raise their voices against the shedding of blood and destruction imposed on our people by the U.S. Administration. [end recording]

NEW ECUADORAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PA201432 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0449 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Havana, 19 Apr (EFE) -- After 3 years of relations at charge d'affaires level, the new Ecuadoran ambassador in Cuba today presented his credentials to the Havana government. Ambassador Eduardo Santos Alvite was received in the usual solemn ceremony by Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, accompanied by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

In a similar ceremony a month ago, the Cuban ambassador in Quito, Carlos Zamora, presented his credentials to Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado. Relations between Cuba and Ecuador were at a crisis stage in February 1981 when a group of Cubans occupied the Ecuadoran Embassy requesting political asylum.

SUPPORT FOR NAMIBIA REITERATED AT SEMINAR

PA220455 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Cuba has reiterated its support for the independence of Namibia and has underscored that the main factor that allows the existence of colonialism and racism in that territory is South African-U.S. cooperation. During a seminar on the activities of foreign economic interests in Namibia held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Cuban Ambassador to Yugoslavia Aramis Fuentes condemned all attempts to link the presence of Cuban internationalist troops in Angola to the independence of Namibia. He added that the true motives behind this maneuver and the South African policy are reflected in the many aggressions that Angola and other countries of the region are suffering, as well as in Western efforts to distort the truth.

HAVANA ELECTION RESULTS, 22 APRIL RUNOFF

FL201840 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 84

[Text] According to the latest reports, 1,379,164 of 1,409,186 persons participated in elections held yesterday in Havana City Province. This represents 97.87 percent voter participation. The municipalities with the highest proportions of participants were: Plaza with 99.59 percent, San Miguel with 99.16 percent, and Guanabacoa with 98.78 percent. Nevertheless, the other municipalities reported over 93 percent voter participation.

A total of 754 delegates were elected. One hundred forty were women, or 18.5 percent, and 128 were workers, or 17 percent. Four hundred seventy-one delegates were re-elected, representing 52 percent of those who ran. On Sunday, 22 April, 206 municipalities will hold runoff elections, representing 21.5 percent of those holding primary elections.

MIRET PRIETO COMMENDS NICKEL PLANT WORKERS

FL202010 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Politburo member Pedro Miret Prieto has commended the 3d Party Congress contingent, which consists of more than 300 skilled workers from the Ministry of Basic Industry. This contingent is composed of professionals, technicians, and skilled workers in 83 specialties. The workers have guaranteed that the Punta Gorda nickel plant will start production in October in response to the commander in chief's call at the 15th workers' congress. All the workers, including 17 women, will remain in Moa until the end of 1985. They will be working with more than 270 Soviet specialists.

Central Committee member Ramon Cardona, secretary general of the National Chemical and Energy Industry Workers Trade Union [SNTIGE], gave the closing speech. He said the 650 million-peso investment has the capacity of producing 30,000 metric tons of nickel annually and will return approximately 180 million pesos in this period.

PEDIATRIC GROUP CONCLUDES MEETING IN HOLGUIN

PA221937 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] The determination to work until Cuba becomes a world medical power was ratified in a letter to Fidel Castro by the 100 delegates participating in the first national plenary of pediatric intensive therapy which has adjourned in Holguin Province. Abelardo Ramirez, Cuban vice minister of health, said that from late 1981 to date approximately $50 million have been invested in the medical construction and expansion and in the purchase of medical equipment. He emphasized that life expectancy in Cuba exceeds 73 years, the infant mortality rate last year was 16.8 percent [as heard], and there was a marked reduction of infectious diseases. Ramirez said Cuba possesses a national health system unique in Latin America, the results of which exceed those of the Third World and even of developed nations.

ISLAMIC GROUP ON ISRAELI CAPITAL CONTROVERSY

PA211936 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] During a meeting in Morocco the Islamic Committee for the Liberation of Jerusalem asked all Arab and Muslim nations to break off diplomatic relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador for having recognized the Holy City as the capital of Israel.

The governments of these two Central American nations were harshly criticized for having transferred their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, while the United States was strongly warned against any similar decision.

MPLA LABOR PARTY ISSUES STATEMENT ON ANGOLA

PA210156 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The Central Committee of the MPLA Labor Party [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] has issued a statement at the end of a special session in which it stressed that the withdrawal of the South African troops from Angola, the end of all support to the counterrevolutionary UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], and the application of UN Resolution 435 would help solve the problems of southern Africa. The statement added that the MPLA Labor Party believes that these three conditions are the basis for any solution of the conflict in southern Africa.

Regarding the imperialist attempts to link the decolonization process in Namibia with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola, the document stressed that the Angolan-Cuban joint declaration signed in February 1982 defines the reasons for the presence of those international troops in that African country. Those principles, it added, were recently reinforced by the 19 March joint declaration signed by the chiefs of state and government.

PENTAGON ADMITS CRUISE MISSILE DEFECTS

FL210048 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] In Washington the Pentagon has admitted the existence of defects in 1,000 nuclear cruise missiles, the unit cost of which is $1,700,000. The U.S. Defense Department tried to reduce the importance of this fact by alleging that the defects in the cruise missiles do not occur on a systematic basis.

U.S. REJECTS ASTORGA AS NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR

PA191934 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] The U.S. Government has rejected Nicaragua's plan to appoint Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga its ambassador in Washington. It has been learned that the decision to turn her down was made because 6 years ago Astorga participated in the killing of Somozist General Reinaldo Perez Vega, who was an active CIA collaborator. Anyone else would have been acceptable, a high-ranking U.S. official who asked not to be identified has stressed.

When consulted, several Latin American diplomatic sources said that the U.S. rejection of Astorga's appointment is a new White House blunder in its Central American policy.

Confirms 'Unchanged' U.S. Policy

PA201659 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The government of President Ronald Reagan has refused to accept the appointment of the Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, Nora Astorga Gadea, confirming its unwillingness to engage in direct dialogue with the Nicaraguan authorities. A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry note to that effect says that in appointing Nora Astorga, presently deputy foreign minister, the Sandinist government reiterated the seriousness with which it takes relations with the United States and its desire for a constructive dialogue between the two governments.

The note adds that Weshington's decision reaffirms its unchanged aggressive policy toward Nicaragua and states that despite the U.S. Government's attitude, the Sandinist Government has approved Mr Harry Bergold as the new U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, and it will receive his credentials. On different occasions the U.S. Authorities have denied visas to Sandinist leaders and other Nicaraguan personalities. In fact, a few months ago several Nicaraguan consuls were expelled from various U.S. cities.

FORMER CIA AGENT PROTESTS U.S. NICARAGUA POLICY

PA221831 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] In a Texas city, former CIA agent John Stockwell is on a hunger strike protesting U.S. aggressions against Nicaragua.

U.S. 'OCEAN VENTURE-84' MANEUVERS UNDER WAY

PA211803 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The United States today began the Ocean Venture-84 military maneuvers in the Caribbean, which will cost $25 million. Some 30,000 men from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces will participate in the maneuvers, in addition to 30 warships, including the aircraft carrier America and 250 fighter planes of the U.S. Navy and Air Force.

The maneuvers will last until 6 May, during which time there will be operations such as the evacuation of 300 persons from the U.S. base at Guantanamo, in Cuba, and an amphibious landing and air attack on Vieques Island, off the Puerto Rican coast.

Puerto Ricans Oppose Maneuvers

FL210204 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Fishermen from the Puerto Rican island of Vieques have stated that they will interfere with the U.S. military maneuvers, Ocean Venture-84. Carlos (Cenon), president of Vieques Fishermen's Association, said that they would continue to oppose the militarist policy of the Reagan administration which in 1981 used the island to rehearse the invasion of Grenada. (Cenon) said the fishermen are prepared to face jail or death in order to feed their families and they are not going to stop fishing because of Washington's military maneuvers.

U.S. PEACE CORPS SAID LINKED TO ESPIONAGE

PA222235 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Government has increased the budget for the so-called Peace Corps. The agents of that organization created on 1 March 1961 by John F. Kennedy's government operate in Third World countries under the disguise of technicians or specialists who are willing to provide help to the underdeveloped nations. But the truth is that the mission of these apologists of capitalism is to create an idealized image of North American society and to instill rejection of socialism and communism.

During fiscal year 1984, thePeace Corps will be allotted $115 million, and the organization will increase its personnel by 1,500. These people will be sent to perform their subversive tasks in 60 countries. Peace Corps offices abroad are being equipped with the most modern technical devices for their agents to gather espionage information.

Since Central America is one of the main objectives of Ronald Reagan's government, the immediate mission of the Peace Corps is to increase its diversionary work in the Central American nations. Following October's invasion of Grenada by the United States the leaders of that U.S. organization were notified by the Reagan government that special attention should be given to that territory.

This organization's role as an instrument for espionage, intervention, and subversion is reflected in its complicity in the military coup d'etat in Brazil in 1964, the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965, and U.S. espionage in Chile before General Augusto Pinochet's assault on power that was undertaken with the CIA's complicity.

At this time the Peace Corps is once again playing an important role in the subversive tasks of the United States in Latin America, especially in the Central American region. Its job will consist of trying to mold the minds of the peasants to the strategic interests of the United States, and to reduce support for the liberation movements in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. But of course it gets harder every day to fool the Central American peoples. Their growing awareness in the struggle against exploitation is seen in the Central American workers and peasants who today are more aware and convinced that the current political and economic structures need a radical change in order to achieve true independence.

U.S. 'MILITARISM' IN CENTRAL AMERICA CRITICIZED

PA210349 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 20 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. military presence in Central America is becoming increasingly more dangerous for peace in the region. The increase of the U.S. military presence in Central America, mainly through Honduras, and the increase in the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's secret operations form part of what the newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST has described as a sustained and coordinated military buildup.

The growing U.S. militarism in Central America, which is causing concern even in U.S. sectors, has not received congressional authorization and flagrantly contradicts statements by President Ronald Reagan who had said he would not North Americanize the war in El Salvador.

It is irrefutable that under the cover of an unprecedented number of military maneuvers in the region, thousands of U.S. soldiers pass through Honduras, where they have been building military installations for large-scale operations and accumulating a permanent presence of troops.

Initially, Ronald Reagan sought congressional support for his covert war against Nicaragua, which in the beginning he described as a very limited operation. However, its current escalation includes air incursions, mining of ports, and economic sabotages that endanger towns.

The Pentagon insists that most of the installations in Honduras are temporary or will be turned over to the local authorities. Just the opposite is evident. Almost $20 million have been invested in military installations just in Palmerola base, headquarters of the U.S. troops in Honduras and where weapons, bombs, and ammunition will be stored for what has been described as emergency uses. The runway of the Palmerola military base was adapted so that C-130 transport planes can land there.

Michael Barnes, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Western Hemisphere Affairs Subcommittee, has said that the U.S. participation seems to have increased by gigantic steps in an inconceivable manner while the government asserted that nothing new was occurring. Press circles recalled that when the "Big Pine II" joint maneuvers were announced last year, it was affirmed that no U.S. equipment would be left in Honduras. Shortly before those lengthy military exercises ended, it was stated that 1,700 U.S. soldiers would remain in Honduras to guard radar stations, a field hospital, housing, airplanes, and other equipment that the Pentagon decided to leave in that Central American country.

It is widely known that airfields are being built or modernized in La Ceiba, Trujillo, Puerto Lempira, Aguacate, Jamastran, Cerro La Mole, San Lorenzo, and Cucuyagua, all in Honduras, to be used for military flights against the Salvadoran revolutionaries.

U.S. Congressman William Alexander has said that the Ronald Reagan government is using unauthorized funds to do what he could not do in accordance with the law. Nevertheless, the U.S. Government continues this dangerous military escalation in Central America. Two radar stations already operate in Honduras to control the Nicaraguan airspace, thus openly violating Nicaragua's sovereignty. In Puerto Castilla, the United States is providing military training to Salvadoran soldiers and is planning to establish a naval base.

Washington's Central American policy has failed. That is why the accelerated and covert U.S. militaristic steps in the region are producing a situation of alert among all the peoples of our America.

ATTACKS BY NICARAGUAN REBELS, U.S. STANCE VIEWED

PA200439 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The counterrevolutionary attempt to establish a beachhead in the Port of San Juan del Norte on Nicaragua's south Atlantic coast has been repelled by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], which forced about 500 invaders to return to Costa Rica, where the mercenary attack was organized.

The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported that the mercenaries who maintained some pockets of resistance on the border area of San Juan del Norte, a port just 2 km fro Costa Rica, were expelled on Tuesday. The communique indicated that members of the counterrevolutionary group called Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] began to infiltrate the Nicaraguan border region on 8 April when the EPS troops stationed there repelled the enemy attacks that came from Costa Rica's north Atlantic region.

In their desperate flight to Costa Rica, the mercenaries used a yacht and five boats, two of which were sunk in the San Juan River by the Sandinist Air Force. It was reported that EPS troops are intensely combing the area around San Juan del Norte to determine the exact number of enemy casualties and the situation of the members of the small Sandinist border garrison that sustained the first armed clashes with the invaders. Initially, the mercenaries sporadically opened fire on and used mortars to harass Nicaraguan territory from Costa Rican border areas.

On Sunday, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega announced that no aggressor force could establish a beachhead in San Juan del Norte, which is surrounded by swamps and jungles and which was a center of commercial activity in the last century when the San Juan River was used to travel to Lake Nicaragua before the Panama Canal interoceanic route was built.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said that all the U.S. propaganda about the occupation of San Juan del Norte and about Eden Pastora creating a provisional government there is part of a campaign to divert attention from the grave problems that President Ronald Reagan is facing as a result of the domestic and international rejection of his Central American policy.

Nicaragua has asked Costa Rica to adopt urgent measures to prevent the use of Costa Rican territory for the continuation of the escalation of attacks on Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique stressed that the open use of Costa Rican territory has been increasing to the extent that several hospitals and health centers in towns such as Ciudad Quesada and Barra del Colorado are being used by the aggressor mercenary forces. It warned that the Costa Rican Government must act quickly if it wants to prevent the United States, through the CIA, from continuing to compromise Costa Rican territiory and the neutrality proclaimed by President Luis Alberto Monge.

The Sandinist forces also dealt hard blows to the counterrevolutionaries who entered from Honduras into the Nicaraguan Department of Jinotega. On 14 and 15 April, a company of the Colonel Santos Lopez Battalion, made up of youths recruited on the first call of the patriotic military service, killed 34 counterrevolutionaries in Jinotega. Days earlier, the invaders suffered 43 dead in that region.

The counterrevolutionary groups that are attacking Nicaragua with brutal missions directed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and with the approval of President Ronald Reagan's government have suffered crushing defeats in recent days. The mining of the Nicaraguan ports organized by the U.S. CIA and Washington's persistence in continuing to supply aid to the counterrevolutionaries who operate from neighboring territories increasingly involve the United States in the criminal war unleashed against Sandino's fatherland.

NICARAGUAN ARMY IN CONTROL OF SAN JUAN DEL NORTE

FL201432 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] forces have complete control over the San Juan del Norte area, only 2 km from the Costa Rican border, thereby thwarting the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary plan to establish a provisional government.

The Nicaraguan forces are tracking the last of the counterrevolutionaries who, in open flight, have returned to their Costa Rican bases.

Commander Roberto Calderon, chief of staff of Nicaragua's 2d military zone, said that the possibility of a new attack had not been discarded, but that the attackers would receive a fitting response.

Troops Comb Area

PA201937 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Fighters of the People's Sandinist Army, on Thursday maintained absolute control over the abandoned and destroyed town of San Juan del Norte in southeastern Nicaragua, where only 5 days ago the counterrevolutionary leader, Eden Pastora, had announced that he would set up a provisional government. Sandinist troops continue combing the area near the Costa Rican border, where the groups who had attacked San Juan del Norte were headed.

Nicaraguan and foreign newsmen who visited the stricken town yesterday reported that aside from the presence of Sandinist troops, they observed only a climate of death and destruction in San Juan del Norte.

Meanwhile, barely covered with sand in the trenches where they fell in combat, the bodies were found of 15 of the 78 Sandinist soldiers who heroically resisted harassment by some 500 mercenaries for 3 days. The houses, abandoned by their residents a year ago, and the town chapel were burned by the anti-Sandinists before they fled to Costa Rica. The reporters found among the provisions left behind by the anti-Sandinists many Costa Rican cans of foods and cigarettes.

NEW YORK TIMES CITED ON NICARAGUAN PORT MINING

PA191903 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Report by Alberto Ravirosa, PRENSA LATINA correspondent, from Montreal, Canada]

[Text] The Central Intelligence Agency not only lied to the media a few days ago when a spokesman of that espionage agency said that the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee had been informed about the mining of Nicaraguan ports prior to the placing of the mines, but it also lied to the U.S. congressmen themselves.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the CIA was forced to admit that its earlier statements concerning the time at which the House of Representatives was notified of the mining of the Nicaraguan ports were untrue. According to this news report, the CIA refused to hold a briefing session with the members of the House of Representatives at the end of January, asking that it be postponed twice, thus delaying that meeting until 8 March, after the mines had already been placed and the publicity campaign had been set in motion to make it appear that this terrorist action, which violates the right to freedom of passage, had been carried out by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

The CIA behavior, which President Reagan had approved last December, prompted Patrick Moynihan, the Democratic vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, to resign in protest. Reports indicate that the CIA lied to the congressmen and delayed the briefing sessions until 8 March, after the ports had already been mined and several merchant vessels had already been affected by the explosions. THE NEW YORK TIMES also points out that in admitting this, the CIA -- and in consequence, the White House -- are officially assuming responsibility for this act of war.

CONDEMNATION CONTINUES OF NICARAGUAN MINING PORT

International Protest

PA202000 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The Socialist Party of Chile, the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, the Italian Communist Party, and the Italian Labor Confederation have all condemned the mining of Nicaraguan ports by the CIA.

U.S. Clergy Raps Mining

PA210433 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] U.S. Catholic Church leaders have condemned the U.S. Government's covert actions in Central America, especially the mining of Nicaraguan ports. The church leaders demanded that the U.S. Government end the deployment of new U.S. nuclear weapons in West Europe and that it eliminate the MX intercontinental missile system, which is directed at dealing the first nuclear strike on the Soviet Union.

These criticism were formulated during a meeting between president Ronald Reagan and a delegation of church leaders headed by (John Clarck) of Philadelphia and Joseph Barnardin of Chicago.

Other reports indicate that U.S. priests and ministers living in Mexico gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy in that country to protest against Ronald Reagan's aggressive Central American policy. The spokesman of the demonstration warned that if the aggressions continue in that region, the U.S. Government will repeat the same errors committed in Vietnam where 50,000 U.S. citizens died.

Hollywood Group Opposed

PA211258 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Hundreds of actors, film directors, and other movie industry workers from Hollywood have created a committee of concern over Central America to oppose the U.S. Government's warmongering policy in the region. Popular movie actor Mike Farrell, a member of the committee's board of directors, said that the mining of Nicaraguan ports by the United States is a clear policy of war.

Paper Scores U.S. Actions

PA221810 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] The argument used by U.S. President Reagan about arms traffic to the Salvadoran guerrillas as an excuse to mine the Nicaraguan ports does not justify such actions, the Canadian paper GLOBE AND MAIL has said. If the United States had detected or intercepted such arms traffic in the Gulf of Fonseca it would have revealed it to the world immediately, the paper added.

STATEMENTS CONFLICT ON HELICOPTERS INCIDENT

PA211800 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] U.S. diplomats have admitted in Tegucigalpa the possibility that the two helicopters hit by the Slavadoran rebels' antiaircract fire may have flown over Salvadoran territory. This information, published by THE NEW YORK TIMES, said that despite the denial by the U.S. Army that the aircraft were over Salvadoran territory, Senator Lawton Chiles admitted that none of his other colleagues knew where they were flying, adding that the border in the area is not clearly defined.

Meanwhile, the FMLN of El Salvador claimed responsibility for the action and denied statements by the U.S. ambassador in Honduras, John Negroponte, who claimed that the two helicopters had been hit by guerrilla artillery fire over Honduran territory. Nobody aboard the helocipters was injured.

FMLN Cited

PA200422 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] FMLN armed clomns have successfully attacked the regime's garrison in seven Salvadoran towns during the past hours. The information reveals that the clashes were particularly fierce in Jocoro, Osicala, El Divisadero, and Guatejiagua in Morazan Department; and in Chapeltique, San Miguel Department.

In addition, the Salvadoran guerrilla organization claimed responsibility today for the attack on two helicopters carrying U.S. Senators Lawton Chiles and Bennett Johnson, and Diana Negroponte, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Honduras, John Negroponte. The station Radio Venceremos, voice of the FMLN, said the attack took place from Salvadoran territory -- controlled by the patriots -- and denied John Negroponte's statement that the attack which forced the two helicopters to land in Honduras took place in that country. The FMLN said it has not established positions in Honduras to attack troops or aircraft from that nation. The organization added that John Negroponte's statement is completely false and he only seeks to justify the continuity of Washington's preparations to attack the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran people. For this, Radio Venceremos added, thousands of U.S. soldiers are currently engaged in military maneuvers and other mobilization activities with the Honduran Army. Lastly, the radio station warned that if any type of raid is carried out against the guerrilla-controlled zones, they will open fire against the aggressors to defend the Salvadoran people's sovereignty.

COSTA RICAN OFFICIALS SAID WORKING WITH ARDE

PA211943 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The Coordinating Organization to Promote Democratic Freedoms in Costa Rica [Coordinadora por la Vigencia de las Libertades Democraticas en Costa Rica] has charged that Costa Rican Government officials are cooperating with ARDE, the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, an anti-Sandinist group headed by Eden Pastora, which has camps and all sorts of facilities for mobilizing along the Nicaraguan border.

Some of the Costa Rican officials mentioned by the organization as ARDE collaborators include the minister and deputy minister of the interior, Alfonso Carro Zuniga and Enrique Chacon, respectively; the chief and former chief of national security, Colonels Carlos Monge and Francisco Tacsan, respectively; and the deputy chief of the Security Ministry's [words indistinct].

The coordinating organization added that the ARDE counterrevolutionary band has five camps, an operations base, and several arms depots in the Costa Rican Departments of Guanacaste and Alajuela, having turned the sector bordering Nicaragua into a no-man's land, and that Civil and Rural Guard forces have been withdrawn from that area. The organization said that the security forces were withdrawn from the area after a visit to Costa Rica by the chief of the U.S. Southern Command headquartered in Panama, General Paul Gorman.

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IMPOSES STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA201709 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] A number of restrictive measures are contained in the state of emergency imposed by Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo's government in view of the opposition's campaign for direct presidential elections. The restrictions suspend individual freedoms and guarantees and grant the authorities power to partially censor the press for 2 months by virtue of Congress' approval of a motion amending the present electoral system.

The state of emergency covers the federal capital and 10 neighboring municipalities, and the inclusion of these territories implies the creation of a military cordon around Brasilia together with strict vigilance by the security forces. On 25 April the Brazilian Congress will examine and vote on a proposal by the opposition regarding the first direct presidential elections since the establishment of the military regime in 1964.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES TRADE RELATIONS, CUBA

FL191234 Bridgetown CANA in English 0013 GMT 19 Apr 84

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, April 18 (CANA) -- The Antigua Government, just returned to power for a third straight five-year term, is soon to send a high level mission to Trinidad and Tobago hoping to sort out bilateral trade difficulties, ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) Chairman Lester Bird announced here today.

Bird, the deputy prime minister and the minister for foreign affairs, economic development and tourism in the previous administration, was speaking to reporters here less than 24 hours after the ALP scored a resounding 16-1 win in yesterday's general elections.

"Our intention is to make the first trip to Trinidad and Tobago at the highest level to see if there can't be some quid pro quo in trade," said Bird, whose father, V.C. Bird Snr, 73, heads the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP).

Antigua and Barbuda exports about 75 per cent of its mainly light manufactures to Port of Spain, but like other members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) has been finding it difficult to penetrate Trinidad's new import licensing system.

The George Chambers administration, seeking to curb the leakage of foreign exchange in face of a slow down of the country's economy caused by a sharp drop in oil revenue, has been clamping restrictions on imports, and this has combined with Jamaica's economic problems to hurt Antigua, said Bird, who has emerged as government's chief spokesman.

One factory here reports it is in danger of closing because of the problem with the Port of Spain market, Bird said, and in light of the problem Antigua and Barbuda would have to be looking at the development of its industrial estates.

"We will be reviewing our trading relations with Caricom," Bird said, adding that Antigua would be looking at other markets, particularly the United States, particularly with the benefits being offered under Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Bird also disclosed that Antigua and Barbuda, in light of last October's political upheaval in Grenada, was reviewing contacts that had been established with Cuba to develop relations between the two countries.

Bird said he had met with a roving Cuban ambassador in the region, and "I was able to pursuade my cabinet that Cuba was part of the Caribbean and that we can't ignore them, and that we should have talks about developing sporting and cultural relations with them.

"But in light of recent events and the abhorrence of adventurism in the Caribbean, it is fair for me to say that the government is seeking to review its position on that matter."

This was not to suggest that the government would not arrive at its original conclusion "but as a result of the Grenada episode we need to review the matter."

PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR GREATER PROSPERITY

FL192250 Bridgetown CANA in English 2038 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, April 19 (CANA) -- Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister, Vere Bird, whose party was re-elected for a third consecutive five-year term on Tuesday, said in a nation wide radio/television broadcast last night that his administration is committed to providing the country with greater economic prosperity for the next few years.

The 73-year-old veteran politician said that under the strong economic base already created by his Antigua Labour Party (ALP), "Our principal task will be the creation of full employment -- the provision of a job for every person."

Figures from the Ministry of Economic Development earlier this year show that Antigua and Barbuda recorded a 2.5 per cent growth rate for 1983.

Bird made reference to the hotel industry, which he said will bring employment to over 3,300 Antiguans and the industrial sector, which will employ 1,200 persons. "This is a demonstration of genuine faith and real confidence in our country's economic prosperity under the Antigua Labour Party," the prime minister said.

Bird also called on nationals to be mindful of their individual role in the realisation of a healthy economic climate. "Our country will only be built by hard work and dedication, and it will only prosper by the sum of our individual efforts," he said. He continued: "I call on you to join me in creating a future of liberty for our children by building on the stable foundations of the present."

Like his son and chairman of the ALP, Lester Bird, the prime minister regarded his party's resounding victory at Tuesday's polls -- it won 16 of the 17 seats at stake -- as a "rejection of the opposition groups and their scandalous allegations of corruption and mismanagement."

He said: "It is a reaffirmation that the people want the stability which they have always enjoyed under a Labour government."

"Like you, I hope that those who sought to create discord and confusion in our society now understand that this country has turned its back on those undesirable and unrewarding conditions."

BARBADOS

CHINESE ENVOY DISCUSSES TIES BEFORE DEPARTURE

FL162140 Bridgetown CANA in English 1844 GMT 15 Apr 84

[By Irvine Reid]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 15 (CANA) -- China's outgoing ambassador to Barbados, Wang Tao, regrets that more countries in the Caribbean do not have diplomatic relations with the Beijing country.

Wang Tao, who leaves here tomorrow after completing his tour of duty, said he is satisfied with relations with Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda, the other state to which he was accredited.

"China is willing to establish relations with all countries on the basis of five principles of coexistence: mutual respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence, Wang Tao told CANA through an interpreter.

"As you know, some countries in this area have relationships with Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (feels it) is the only legitimate government and the representatives of the Chinese people and (that) Taiwan is part of China. We are against the policy of two Chinas, but, we understand," he said. He did not name countries. However, this week St Lucia announced it would establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan, which has formalities with a mere 24 states compared to the more than 100 that have links with Beijing.

Speaking of assistance to Barbados, Wang Tao said that China plans to help the local Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), a state-run agency in the areas of embroidery and bamboo weaving in an effort to boost the tourist industry.

Wang Tao said that China wants to improve trade between the two countries presently in China's favour. "To this end, my government will send a team of experts to Barbardos to make special contacts with the relevant authorities." He said that the experts are due either next month or early June and will especially look at sugar and timber, two products China is interested in buying.

The ambassador said that one sad note of his five-year term was the fact that Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda had not taken up scholarships offered by Beijing. The areas of study include medicine, civil engineering, industry, and agriculture. He said that one of the reasons for the failure to accept the offers was the distance between the countries and the language barriers.

DOMINICA

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK NEW IMF STANDBY SUPPORT

FL191656 Bridgetown CANA in English 1551 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 19 (CANA) -- The Dominica Government announced today it would seek a new balance of payments support agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enable it to follow through its economic recovery programme in the fiscal year 1984-85. The announcement came as an eight member team from the IMF left Dominica at the end of a three week assignment as part of the annual consultation with member governments of the fund.

The government statement did not say how much money would be involved under the IMF standby arrangement, but said the team looked at areas in which the fund "can support the government in its present and future economic development plan."

"Under the standby arrangement the fund will provide the government with financial assistance to enable it to follow its recovery programme in the fiscal year 1984-85," the statement explained.

Three years ago, Dominica entered into a 37 million dollar (1 EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) package with the fund, after the Eugenia Charles administration complained of having taken over a country virtually bankrupt from successive Labour Party administrations.

Today's government statement quoted the IMF team as saying that "the government has successfully ended a three year agreement" and that "the Dominica economy has performed remarkably well in the last three years."

The leader of the IMF team, Gopal Yadav, was quoted as saying that the government achieved significant success in strengthening its finances. He said the rate of inflation continued to fall and, according to the Statistical Department of the Ministry of finance, the inflation rate is four per cent. Yadav said the government "still faces a difficult task of completing the process of economic recovery, but the government must be commended for its policies and achievements in the last three years."

Among the conditions stipulated for the just concluded loan agreement were a wage freeze of 10 per cent per annum for public sector workers during the three years, and a halt to all subsidies to state-owned corporations.

GRENADA

CARETAKER GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT TAX-FREE BUDGET

FL201636 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Grenada's 5-month-old caretaker government will present a tax-free budget to the nation before April 30th. Government sources say the 1984 budget will be less than the record $9.6 million budget presented last year by the government of the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. The Interim Advisory Council that rules Grenada has indicated that copies of the 1984 budget will be made available to the public. During Mr. Bishop's regime, the government budget was not published.

IAC APPROVES LOCAL, FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROJECTS

FL181338 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Grenada's Interim Advisory Council [IAC] has approved dozens of local and foreign investment projects including an expansion of the St George's University Medical School and five new hotels. Among the manufacturing projects approved were candles, aluminum windows, wooden toys, handicrafts, electrical components, clothing, galvanized sheet metal, nails, and macaroni.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT, BAUXITE FIRMS ACCEPT 6-PERCENT LEVY

FL201910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 20 (CANA) -- Jamaica has announed a new bauxite levy on producing companies of six per cent of the averaged realised price of primary ingot for a five year period. The levy announced by Minister of Mining and Energy Senator Hugh Hart at a press conference yesterday should have taken effect from January 1, but negotiations with the four major bauxite companies were concluded two months ago. It became effective February 15.

In outlining the new regime, Hart paid tribute to the companies -- Alcoa, Alcan, Reynolds and Kaiser -- for the "constructive suggestions and co-operation in creating a climate conducive to reasonable discussions and open-mindedness on a matter no tax payer is happy about."

The levy replaces one introduced in 1974 by the socialist government of former Prime Minister Michael Manley and later modified from the initial 7.5 percent of average realised price to six percent in 1979. Jamaica has earned 1.5 million U.S. dollars from the levy.

Under the new agreement, a basic levy rate cauculated at 6 percent of the average of the realised price for primary aluminium from prices reported on the Securities and Exchange Commission from reports of the four companies named. [sentence as received]

The government had said the new arrangement would attack weaknesses of the old.

The other basic change is that the payment will be made on a monthly basis on the 15th of the month instead of the previous quarterly payments.

Calculation of the levy will be on a metric tonne basis as against the previous long dry ton.

Payment will change from a system of provisional tonnage to actual shipment and this, it was stated, will be to the enhanced advantage of the Jamaican Government.

In the area of royalties, the amount of 50 Jca cents has been changed to 50 U.S. cents per tonne. This was done to allow Jamaica to benefit from the devaluation of its dollar.

The agreement will last for five years and it was agreed that the companies would maintain their investments here to the level of 1983 in view of the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

Several incentives have been added to the deal by the government with the hope of increasing productivity thus improving the tax inflow.

Hart in his presentation said that the bauxite industry has changed significantly, with several countries being partners in the operation of the companies in their territories.

Hart disputed the allegation that the bauxite levy was the major drawback to increased production here, and said the argument to support such a claim was over-simplified.

Bauxite and its associate products once accounted for about 70 percent of the country's foreign exchange inflow, but with the recession in the industrialised states that has fallen to about 50 percent.

MICHAEL MANLEY LEADS PNP DEMONSTRATION

FL192112 Bridgetown CANA in English 1830 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 19 (CANA) -- The opposition People's National Party (PNP) has staged a demonstration against high prices, the non-increase in the national minimum wage, removal of subsidies for basic foods and the postponement of local government elections from June.

The demonstration, held yesterday in Cross Roads, Mid-Kingston, attracted a large lunch-hour crowd, but was peaceful

Before leading the demonstration, party head, ex-Prime Minister Michael Manley, said there would be many more demonstrations unless conditions improved.

The major demonstration is set for the state-opening of Parliament on May 11. The PNP boycotted last year's snap elections because the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) used an unupdated voters list and had not carried out an electoral reform programme the two had approved.

Last week the PNP staged three demonstrations in rural Jamaica.

The Senate last week approved a resolution giving the government permission to postpone local government elections until next year, when the voters list is ready.

PNP URGES GOVERNMENT TO RESCHEDULE DEBTS

FL182342 Bridgetown CANA in English 2314 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 18 (CANA) -- Jamaica's opposition People's National Party (PNP) has called on the government to give urgent attention to rescheduling of the country's substantial international debts.

Speaking at the PNP's monthly people's forum -- the party's public platform to make up for its absence from Parliament -- Chairman P.J. Patterson said that because of Jamaica's poor financial rating and its proximity to financially strapped Latin America, it may not be able to raise the necessary loans.

However, he said, the country's foreign policy must be made to work in concert with other developing countries to achieve an immediate and substantial injection of cash.

He said that Jamaica must join other countries in debt crisis in seeking a rescheduling of the hugh debts owned to international institutions. At the same time, he said that the country must continue efforts to improve its terms of trade.

Patterson did not give figures for the national debt, but official statistics put it as 2.8 billion dollars (1 Jca dollar; 26 cents U.S.) last October compared with 1.5 billion at the end of 1980.

COMMUNISTS DEMAND SUGAR FACTORIES STAY OPEN

FL192354 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 19 (CANA) -- The communist Workers Party of Jamaica today called on the sugar workers here to bring the most serious pressure on the government to keep open the three state-owned sugar factories due for closure.

According to the WPJ, the only "language this government understands is pressure."

The government announced plans last week to close the factories in what it said is a continuing move to rationalise the industry.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

NO AGREEMENT REACHED IN TALKS WITH NETHERLANDS

FL191304 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Talks in Willemstad between the Dutch minister for Antillean affairs and representatives of the Netherlands Antilles have failed to produce agreement on the Dutch contribution to the solidarity fund. Money from this fund is to help the smaller Antillean islands once Aruba has become autonomous in 1986.

The smaller islands wanted a larger Dutch contribution than Holland is able to give; however, the budget for the Netherlands Antilles has been increased by nearly one quarter. Mr. De Koning wants to use this extra 40 million guilders to form a buffer fund for the smaller islands. This money could then be used to finance capital-intensive projects.

In a later round of talks, the parties will try to reach agreement on the size of the solidarity fund as well as fix the share of this for Aruba, Curacao, and the Netherlands.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ECONOMY'S DOWN-SURGE SHOWS IN TRADE DEFICIT

FL112004 Bridgetown CANA in English 1925 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 11 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago's oil-based economy recorded a visible trade deficit of 78.9 million dollars (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) last January, a dramatic fall from the 144.1 million dollars in the corresponding 1983 month, it has been officially announced.

The finance minister's Central Statistical Office, in its latest bulletin, said 344.4 million dollars worth of goods were imported this January while exports were valued at 265.5 million dollars.

Imports for the corresponding month last year stood at 599.5 million dollars, while exports were worth 455.4 million dollars.

Under the Caribbean Common Market agreement, Trinidad and Tobago recorded an adverse balance of visible trade of 20.8 million dollars in January this year, the CSO reported.

The value of January 1984 imports under the agreement was 25.1 million dollar, 7.3 per cent of total imports. Domestic exports to Caricom for the same month totalled 4.3 million dollars or 1.7 of total domestic exports.

When thecountry's Caricom trade figures for January 1984 were compared with January 1983, the CSO said, imports decreased by 21.3 million dollars and domestic exports increased by 0.8 million dollars.

Excluding the petroleum sector, Caricom imports were valued at 25.1 million dollars and domestic exports 4.3 million dollars, during January this year, CSO added.

It is said the main source of Trinidad and Tobago's Caricom imports in January this year were: Barbados (27.7 per cent), Guyana (22.8 per cent), and Jamaica (22.6 per cent).

Of total domestic exports to the Caricom bloc, Barbados absorbed 35.2 per cent in January]984 and Guyana 25.8 per cent.

The statistical office added that imports from Jamaica decreased by 13.2 million dollars and from Barbados by 4.5 million dollars compared with the corresponding 1983 period.

EDUCATION MINISTER HOPES U.S. STAYS IN UNESCO

FL211707 Bridgetown CANA in English 1612 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 21 (CANA) -- Guyana says it hopes the United States will reconsider its decision to withdraw from UNESCO at the end of the year. Education Minister Ranji Chandisingh said Guyana supported the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, its director general, and "the ideals and principles elaborated into programmes which have been widely acknowledged as making a real contribution to mankind."

The U.S. announced its decision last December, alleging the agency had become politicised and was mismanaged.

Chandisingh said Guyana regretted the U.S. decision but was cognisant of the sovereign right of states to enter or leave international organizations. "The Government of Guyana has been following with interest the subsequent enquiry into the decision which the U.S. Government has initiated along with initiatives being taken in several quarters to ensure that the effectiveness of UNESCO is not impaired," he added. "The Government of Guyana welcomes the expressions in several capitals emphasising the positive role and contribution of UNESCO and hopes that this counsel will prevail to the extent of persuading the Government of the United States to reconsider its decision to withdraw," the minister said.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS $250 MILLION IN AID FROM IDB

FL201630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1555 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 20 (CANA) -- Guyana is seeking aid from the Inter-American Development Bank (IBD) to the tune of 250 million dollars (U.S.) to help finance development projects between 1984 and 1986, according to the Latin America Newsletter WEEKLY REPORT received here. The London-based publication said the projects were proposed to an IDB programming mission which came here last month for talks with the Forbes Burnham government.

Said the Latin America Newsletter REPORT: "The mission expressed initial interest, however, in agricultural and industrial rehabilitation plans valued at more than 100 million (U.S.) dollars and will decide on the extent of funding during the IDB's next visit in the near future.

"Of urgency to the government is its Tumatumari hydro-electric station that could supply the bulk of present energy needs. The cost of the project is estimated at 130-150 million (U.S.) dollars, but the IDB appears reluctant to provide the necessary funding. Initial interest of World Bank officials also seems to have waned. Another worrying uncertainty for the government is whether projects accepted for funding would qualify for soft or normal high interest loans." In the past Guyana has run up against stiff opposition from the United States when applying for soft loans from the IDB.

The government's latest plans include revitalisation of agriculture (30 million (U.S.) dollars), industry (25 million (U.S.) dollars), back-bush rehabilitation (7 million (U.S.) dollars), 4 million (U.S.) dollars for Guyana Timbers Ltd, and a foresty treatment and seasoning plant (5 million U.S. dollars).

The IDB will look into plans for a cement bagging plant (costing 4 million U.S. dollars) and is keen on the improvement of port facilities put at 15 million (U.S.) dollars. Funding is still being sought for other projects such as the rebuilding of the rural water system (6 million U.S. dollars), development of dairy farming (2 million U.S. dollars), and roads (15 million U.S. dollars).

The bank has also been asked to consider technical cooperation plans for the period 1984-86 which include the strengthening of the planning system (1 million U.S. dollars), marketing and accounting system in the rice sector (1.5 million U.S. dollars), feasability studies for a deep-water port, and potential utilisation of timber waste (500,000 dollars U.S.).

OPPOSITION PARTY FEARS 'SNAP' ELECTIONS

WA231346 Rome IPS in English 23 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, April 19 (IPS) -- An opposition party here has announced its intention to start campaigning early for "fair and free" elections, expressing fears that a snap election by the Forbes Burnham administration might catch opposition parties napping. The leftist Working People's Alliance (WPA) decided at a members conference April 14 and 15 to begin election preparations, fearing a repeat of what they considered strategic timing of the 1980 polls by the ruling People's Congress (PNC).

"A snap election in Guyana will be a mere stage play since under the present system where the ruling party illegally and unconstitutionally controls the elections machinery the PNC will win," the WPA said.

Fuelled by its fears of a snap election, the organization has alerted opposition political parties of the possibility, and have asked for their support in a campaign to begin the fight for a fair and free election.

Opposition parties have accused the ruling party of electoral fraud, while the PNC has denied the charges.

At a press conference here this week, WPA co-leaders Eusi Kwayana and Rupert Roopnaraine were unable to indicate whether the Alliance, having boycotted the 1980 election, will contest an early poll.

The WPA, which in 1983 called for a fact-finding mission to be sent to Guyana, has extended that appeal to include not only the Commonwealth representatives, but influential Guyanese organizations as well. "It is our opinion that such a mission should carry out its work, not at the time of elections, but well ahead of any date which may be set, so as to lay bare whether genuine elections are at all possible under the existing legislation in our multi-party constitutional system," said Kwayana. "It is our view that under the present electoral legislation free, fair, and genuine elections in Guyana are not at all possible," he added.

CATHOLIC PAPER CITES SOLIDARITY UNION AS MODEL

FL201610 Bridgetown CANA in English 1511 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 20 (CANA) -- A call for workers in Guyana to follow the example of their counterparts in Poland and rebuild a strong and powerful trade union movement has been made here by the CATHOLIC STANDARD, official organ of the Roman Catholic Church.

In an editorial, the paper said "the epic struggle of the Polish workers for their right to organise themselves in an independent trade union, Solidarity, has earned the great admiration of workers throughout the world."

It said the founder of trade unionism in the Commonwealth Caribbean in 1919, Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, a Guyanese, would have applauded the efforts of the Polish workers.

But, it said "in Guyana many who eulogise Critchlow for his persevering struggle during the colonial days for workers rights, are the very ones who have moved once more to enslave the workers."

The STANDARD said workers more than ever today need the assurance that "the leaders of the trade union movement are prepared to stand up courageously for their rights."

It said those in the public sector are in a particularly vulnerable position and can be dismissed from the ministries or public corporations with only a months notice or pay in lieu of notice with no reason given.

"They cannot depend on the Trades Union Congress (TUC) (umbrella body for the labour movement here) to make effective representations for them, as in recent years that body has failed dismally to stand up for workers rights," the paper said.

The STANDARD referred to several incidents of workers being dismissed and of scabs being taken on by the government, with hardly "a whimper from the TUC."

The paper criticised the recent enactment of legislation which it said robs individual unions of their bargaining rights and their rights to strike, and said the TUC "merely bleated that it had not been given time to study the enactment."

The paper called on workers "to unite to rebuild a strong and powerful trade union movement, one that will champion the cause of the ordinary man, while remaining a free and independent organisation upon which the state dare not encroach."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CAUSE PRICES TO RISE

FL201652 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Residents of the Dominican Republic are faced with higher prices for flour, bread, sugar, cooking oil, and powdered milk. The price increases come less than 48 hours after the Dominican Monetary Board decided to ban the use of the country's foreign exchange for the importation of medicine, oatmeal, newsprint, and fertilizers or the purchase of airline tickets. Prices of those items are expected to triple as a result.

ECUADOR

FORMER PRESIDENT AROSEMENA DIES OF HEART ATTACK

PA212247 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2048 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Quito, 21 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Relatives have reported that Ecuadoran President Otto Arosemena Gomez died of a heart attack while resting at the Salinas seaside resort on the Pacific coast. He was 58. Arosemena, founder and current leader of the centrist Democratic Institutionalist Coalition Party, CID, was a member of the Ecuadoran Congress.

Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado sent the Arosemena family a telegram expressing his condolences and saying that the former president "rendered important services to the country and democracy as legislator and chief of state."

FEBRES PROMISES END TO 'PERSECUTION' OF BUSINESS

PA191845 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 84

[Speech by Leon Febres Cordero, presidential candidate of the National Reconstruction Front, to the Ecuadoran Chamber of Industrialists; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] You businessmen, who are generators of wealth, have always been misunderstood and persecuted. Today I speak to you, with the right that the Constitution gives me as an Ecuadoran citizen, as a candidate for president [applause] who plans to stop the persecution of business and help this sector, under the country's laws, to continue generating national wealth, which is essential to the social welfare of the Ecuadoran people.

We need to present to the international financial world a plan to create a responsible, sensible, and credible economic reactivation plan. We need to outline programs to consolidate the total Ecuadoran public debt over the longest possible term and with the most advantageous conditions we can get. The country is not capable of paying its debt under the present terms of refinancing, unless we wish to starve the Ecuadoran people and paralyze the country's development. [applause] Our wage policy will restore the sucre's purchasing power and will foster a harmonious relationship between management and workers. Moreover, it will be based on the restoration of confidence, which will in turn result in the economy's reactivation. Consequently, this will also lead to the creation of jobs.